



SOCCER ACTION

JUGOSLOVENSKA
SCENA:15

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ΣΕΛΙΣ:15

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Croatia gets Odzakov

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Zarko Odzakov will make his debut with Sydney Croatia against Newcastle-Rosebud at Adams-town Oval on Saturday night, and also hopes to force his way into the Soccerroo squad for the World Cup qualifying series.

"I'll be closer to Frank Arok in Sydney, Odzakov said after his \$21,000 transfer from Preston-Makedonia on Monday.

Makedonia had wanted \$32,000 for him but there was never a chance that any club would pay so much.

Ironically, Makedonia fans were clamoring for Odzakov's return to the senior team as the club lost 0-1 to South Melbourne Hellas last Sunday.

"I hope I will get a chance to play for the national team," Odzakov said. "I have an appointment for Australian citizenship on Wednesday (today) and afterwards, I will fly to Sydney."

"I hope to have my citizenship in two or three months, if everything goes OK."

Odzakov said he was looking forward to playing alongside Vedran Rozic, the Sydney Croatia coach who finally got his clearance from Hajduk Split, and played in the 1-2 loss to Wollongong last Sunday.

"Rozic played for Yugoslavia, and he had maybe 500 games for Hajduk. I played against him a couple of times while I was with Vardar, and he is a top player."

With Odzakov in the team, Sydney Croatia continues to develop into perhaps the most glamorous team in Australian soccer.

Although Sydney Croatia succeeded in forcing Odzakov's transfer fee down, he still is the most expensive player of the season so far.

At Croatia, Odzakov links up with Soccerroo Jim Patikas who was bought from Sydney Olympic.

Former Melbourne Croatia coach Tony Vrzina was the po-



Zarko Odzakov

between in the deal between Odzakov and Sydney Croatia. Odzakov, 29, had refused to accept the terms of a new contract Makedonia wanted him to sign, so the club relegated him to its youth team.

Yet Odzakov was Makedonia's player of the year in 1983, he has been hailed by many experts as the finest midfielder in Australia and he played more than 200 Yugoslav First Division matches for Vardar Skopje before coming to Australia.

When Makedonia asked all its players to take a pay cut because the season will be shorter this year, Odzakov agreed to a \$2000 reduction in his contract, providing the club provided air tickets back to Yugoslavia for him and his wife and child. His existing contract, which was to expire at the end of the season, provided for only one air ticket.

According to Odzakov, Makedonia agreed to the two and a half air fares providing that when he returned to Yugoslavia, any club that bought him would pay Makedonia a \$3000 transfer fee.

Alternatively, Odzakov could have had a free transfer in Yugoslavia, but no air tickets.

Odzakov argued that in Yugoslavia, \$3000 was a prohibitive fee.

Neither side would budge in the dispute, so Victoria has lost one of its finest players.

Puskas the living legend moves on to Melbourne

By
ANDREW
DETTRE

Last weekend I met a living legend. I even had dinner with him, watching, with awe and respect, his legendary appetite (stuffed cabbages, roast pork with pomme parisienne, then rich Hungarian langos) which has shaped his rotund figure hovering around the 100 kilograms.

Ferenc Puskas was in Sydney town doing a promotion, obliging his hosts, reminiscing with old acquaintances, backslapping with hysterically excited new 'friends', appearing in old boys' game and exciting with some \$2,000 for his efforts.

Even the gods have their price.

At the moment he's in Canberra but he returns to Melbourne on Friday for another round of engagements — a dinner at Tommy Stankovic's Robin Queen restaurant on Tuesday; a ball in his honor at Hungarian House, Warrimoo, on Saturday, March 30; a game with the Melbourne-Hungary old boys at Williamstown on April 6 and a game



for Geelong old boys against Melbourne old boys in Geelong on April 7. There's also a farewell party for him at the Brighton Savoy Hotel on April 12.

In everything he's said and done, Puskas has been the perfect gentleman and professional. Although occasionally he did look a trifle tired or bored, he is not cynical, not blasé, not cheesed off with 40 years of incessant adoration.

Even Christ only had 30 years or so of it.

When Puskas enters a packed auditorium, his short, pudgy presence fills the hall; people automatically stand up as they would with royalty. Whether he eats, talks or just relaxes, he is not left

alone for a moment. Autograph hunters, camera buffs or just simple admirers surround him. A piece of sporting history is in front of their eyes; the legend of a thousand tales has assumed human form in order to eat garlic bread in the St. George Club of Sydney, in the company of some eight people who forked out \$100 for the joy of it all.

There is a lot of Mickeyrooneyism in Puskas: A short, plainly fat little man of 55, far from handsome or even appealing, with bristled-down thinning black hair. He breathes heavily, with an occasional wheeze and a grunt; his face is ruddy as it was 40 years ago except that decades have crumpled it up somewhat.

The great Puskas is not a sartorial dresser; a nondescript pair of grey slacks and poorly matching jacket, plain business shirt and blue silk tie. In his buttonhole Football's legion D'Honneur. The gold and diamond Real Madrid badge.

Continued page 7



Ferenc Puskas



Pelé — 'not among the top three'

Can anyone stop Bergers?

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• Xanthopoulos



• Opatinis

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Melbourne Croatia and Heidelberg-Alexander probably will have reached the National Cup quarter-finals by the time they square up in their top-of-the-table clash at Olympic Park on Sunday.

In the second round of the Cup at Olympic Park tonight (Wednesday), Croatia looks too strong for Sunshine-George Cross in the early match at 6.30 pm while Heidelberg should beat Makedonia in the later game at 8.30 pm.

Makedonia is likely to miss Con Opatinis and Steve Smith who are injured, and there's doubt about goalkeeper Richard Wilson who was left out last Sunday for disciplinary reasons.

Heidelberg, on the other hand, is at full strength, with ace goalkeeper Scott Patterson still on the bench.

Croatia's long wait for coach Dom Kapetanovic and new striker Ante Ljubic continues. Team manager Frank Burn also has revealed that by the half-way mark of the season, Croatia will have one of the biggest names yet to come to this country.

Croatia is on top of the Southern Division ladder, with Victor Cristaldo starting in midfield, and Gary Ward having scored his first goal for his new club last weekend.

Heidelberg beat Croatia 5-1 in the Buffalo Gold Cup final, and is undefeated in 10 straight games this year. It certainly looks like another Heidelberg victory.

Green Gully meanwhile, is awaiting a medical report before paying Hellas a transfer fee for its former captain Arthur Xanthopoulos. The sweeper agreed to join Green Gully last Saturday, but then had twinges in an old injury, and suggested he get a check-up before money changes hands.

If he is OK, and if he does transfer officially during the week, Xanthopoulos may turn out against Brisbane Lions in the only Saturday match in the Southern Division.

Continued page 4

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• Punches, head-butts, spectators and players fighting, linesmen getting assaulted, sending offs ... the dust still hasn't settled following a fiery South Australian Ampol Cup final. Allan Crisp reports from Adelaide on page 11.

Come back Walter, all is forgiven

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Walter Valeri has been taken off Inter-Monaro's transfer list after being sacked last week, and the club has been joined by former Dinamo Zagreb forward Emil Dragicevic who had been training with Sydney Croatia.

Valeri, 29, the Inter-Monaro captain, was sacked over opinions he put to club directors on behalf of the players, but he still won't say exactly what those opinions were.

"On the Wednesday before our first game, against Canberra, I was called in by the directors and asked certain things about how the team was going, and I told them," Valeri said.

"Apparently I must have offended a few people. I had the player's support, and a couple of players later talked to the president and told him that I had merely spoken on their behalf, so I was taken off the transfer list again."

"I was asked by the directors what the players felt about our new coach (Rumanian Josef Procop), and I expressed the players' feelings. The directors didn't like it."

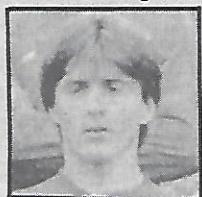
"He obviously has a communication problem. It's OK when he speaks to us. He can get his points across, but there's a problem when we try to talk to him, or make suggestions. We've been using an interpreter lately, and it's much better now. Everything's fine in that regard."

I found the story under the heading "Seleimidis clears up photo phobia" in last week's "Soccer Action", a fascinating exercise in whining self-justification.

But it's all my fault, of course, I thought it was just the final of the Buffalo



Walter Valeri



Emil Dragicevic

"Another thing was that there were too many people interfering, talking about who should play and how we should play. We said: 'Let the coach handle it. It's his job that's on the line, no matter what anyone else says.'"

Although Valeri is back in the fold, Frank Brunacci's resignation as team manager still stands.

"Players have to go through the manager in order to communicate with the directors, and so I had to talk to Brunacci first," Valeri said. "He didn't like what I had to say, and he put all the blame on me, although I was speaking only on behalf of the players."

Asked to spell out exactly what it was that Valeri and the players had to say to the directors, Valeri said: "It's something I don't want to go into too deeply. Most of it is only between the players and the club."

The players felt that it was wrong to sack Valeri the Thursday before the game. They met on Friday night and many wanted to take action — a strike perhaps — but Valeri dissuaded them.

At the height of the dispute, Inter Monaro wanted to swap Valeri for Canberra's Angelo Ambrosino, and Canberra agreed, but on Tuesday last week, when the storm had blown over, Canberra was informed by telegram that Valeri was off the transfer list.

Valeri first joined Inter Monaro in 1977 after five years with West Woden Juventus, and stints in Griffiths with Hanwood and Griffiths United. He left Inter-Monaro to play for Canberra Arrows and then APIA before returning to Inter Monaro last year.

Although switched to midfield, he was top scorer in the NSW State League in 1984.

GOALS GALORE BUT EGAN FEARS WORST

Melbourne players get cold shoulder

South Melbourne Hellas's nippy striker Charlie Egan is pessimistic about his future with the national soccer team, but he's keeping his fingers crossed, hoping his goalscoring exploits will sway Socceroo coach Frank Arok.

Egan scored twice and was best on the ground as Hellas beat Green Gully 3-2 in their first-round National Soccer League match at Middle Park.

And he was the top scorer on the Socceroo's world tour late last year, notching a total of four goals although he played only two full matches. In seven other games on the 12-match tour he was replaced during play or came on as a substitute.

The Socceroo have a busy match schedule this year. International tournaments against leading European teams are planned here in May and in June-July, as preparation for the World Cup qualifying series in September-October.

But Egan fears it may all pass him by.

"I don't really feel confident of being selected again," he said, "but I'm certainly keeping my fingers crossed, because I'd love to play in the World Cup."

"Frank Arok uses two strikers and, with David Mitchell

returning to Australia from Glasgow Rangers, it looks like he and John Kosmina will get the two positions.

"Marshall Soper has sorted out his contract hassles with Sydney Olympic and is back in action, so he too will stake a strong claim."

"Then there's Frank Farina, who had more games than I did on the tour, and the most experienced of the forwards, Phil O'Connor, who wasn't at his best on tour because he'd just recovered from an injury."

"In other words, there are a lot of players in the queue ahead of me."

He believes he'd have a much better chance were he playing in Sydney.

"Melbourne players continue to be overlooked when it comes to national team selection even though Melbourne soccer now is far superior to Sydney's, and we have a greater proportion of the country's best players," Egan said.

"It's so obvious every time you compare the games on television."

However, Egan expects his Hellas team-mates Oscar Crino and Ken Murphy to retain their positions in the national squad, even though neither has been in good form.

"Oscar had an infection after cutting his shin while hill-climbing and that caused him to miss our pre-season training," Egan said. "Now he has to get his fitness in games, but it won't be long before you see him back at his best."

"Kennv had a much better game against Green Gully and it looks like he'll be a key player in the national team."

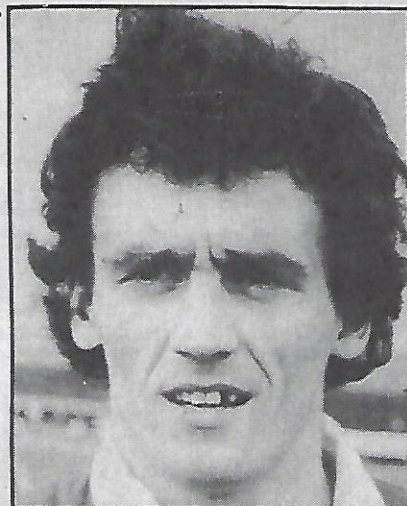
Egan said Hellas right back Bobby Russell and Stopper Steve Blair also deserved places in the Socceroo squad, as did some of Makedonia's players, particularly defender Ian Dobson.

"Hellas won the national championship last year and Makedonia has been in great form for a few years now. Surely if the players are producing the results they should be given a go," Egan said.

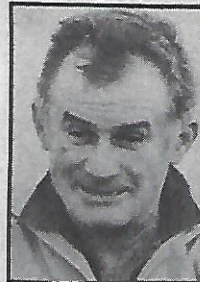
But the nucleus of the national team is in place, and it won't be changed unless there are injuries, he added. "The way I see it, Terry Greedy, David Ratcliffe, Graham Jennings, Tommy McCulloch, Oscar Crino, John Kosmina and probably Ken Murphy all look dead set certainities."

Egan's own chances depend, he believes, on his form in NSL matches. "Hellas has been slow to begin the season, but we're coming good," he said.

"I think the feeling among the lads was: 'Here we go again. We've done it all before, we've won the league and we've got nothing left to prove. But teams like Heidelberg and Makedonia are really hungry, and it's up to us to get just as hungry.'"



Charlie Egan, pondering his Socceroo future.



Frank Arok



Ian Dobson



Steve Blair



Oscar Crino



Bobby Russell



David Mitchell

STOP WHINING THEO!

By 'Soccer Action' photographer LES SHORROCK

Gold Summer Cup, not the premier sporting event of the century, and it was extremely improper of me to overlook the sensibilities of the players whom we all know are extremely sensitive and nervous about playing in public.

Why did I want to take a team photograph? Well, although Master Seleimidis might not realise it, he and his team, Heidelberg, have certain obligations to fulfil — to their fans, who buy the

papers to read about their exploits; to the VSF, which staged the game; and most of all to the sponsor, who put a lot of money into the competition.

The VSF, keenly aware of all this, wished to present a pictorial memento of the Cup to the sponsor, but thanks to Seleimidis's reticence, whilst he and his team-mates gleefully grabbed the Cup and the medals, and the money, the VSF and the sponsor got nothing, and for that matter neither did the readers of this or any other newspaper.

The excuse that there wasn't time to take a team photo is incorrect. The teams came out a quarter of an hour early, and after begging Seleimidis, the Heidelberg captain, three times to oblige, I even went to referee Mike Gaut, who wasn't in the slightest bit perturbed about being kept waiting.

I had far less trouble during the last World Cup finals with Brazil, Northern Ireland, England and the others, but then, their players are professionals.

The Heidelberg players (most of whom are not backward at begging for pictures of themselves) owe an apology not to me — but to the long-suffering public. Most of the players profess a lofty disdain for the Press but the fact of the matter is, there should be give and take. We both need each other, whether the players like it or not.

Welcome back "Rowdie", watch out for "Gong!"

What a welcome surprise it is to see Ian "Rowdie" Rowden back in action in the NSL.

"Rowdie" was the Australian youth team captain back in 1979 and he's bound to add a lot of strength to APIA's defence because he's unbeatable in the air.

He's the marketing manager for Coca-Cola in Sydney and we certainly could use his expertise both on and off the park. Let's hope that once his playing days are over he gets involved either in coaching or as an administrator for the game sure needs guys like him.

"Rowdie" links up with Bertie Mariani in the centre of APIA's defence and they'll be a really formidable com-

Panathinaikos looking good

What a thrill it will be for all Greek soccer fans if Panathinaikos gets through to the semis of the European Cup. Panathinaikos plays its second leg quarter-final match tonight (Wednesday) against Swedish champs Gothenburg after winning 1-0 in Sweden. A man would be mad not to back the Greeks in this one.

And if, as expected, Panathinaikos reaches the semis then it could come up against one of the glamor teams in Europe in either Juventus or Turin or Liverpool.

Panathinaikos is trying to emulate its mighty feat of 1971 when it reached the European Cup final against the great Ajax Amsterdam and having trained with Panathinaikos during the off-season I'm well aware of the

standing qualities of Polish coach Jacek Gmoch, who took Poland to Argentina for the 1978 World Cup finals.

Gmoch is a master tactician. He prides himself on knowing a lot about opposing sides and gives his players specific instructions on how to counter the opponents' strengths.

Yugoslav international Zajec is one of Panathinaikos' stars but its best player for mine is Argentinian Juan Rotsa.

Welcome Ferenc

How fitting it is that past wing wizard Ferenc Puskas is in Australia right now for under his expert coaching, Panathinaikos reached the 1971 European Cup final.

I'm just one of millions who have marvelled over films of Puskas in action and I'm wrapped that the great man is vic-

to be a big boost for the game here, because his exploits as a player and his knowledge as a coach still represent the finer things in soccer. It's really great to see him here.

Surprise surprise

The big surprises in the Northern Division of the NSL this year will be Wollongong and Newcastle Rosebud United. Mark my words.

Wollongong finished bottom last year while Rosebud ended up in 8th spot but they'll be big improvers for sure.

Olympic played the 'Buds the other week and they impressed me with their cohesion and their outstanding defence. Gone are the days when Rosebud and Wollongong were easybeats and that's heretofore news for the NSL bosses and for soccer fans throughout the land for the more com-



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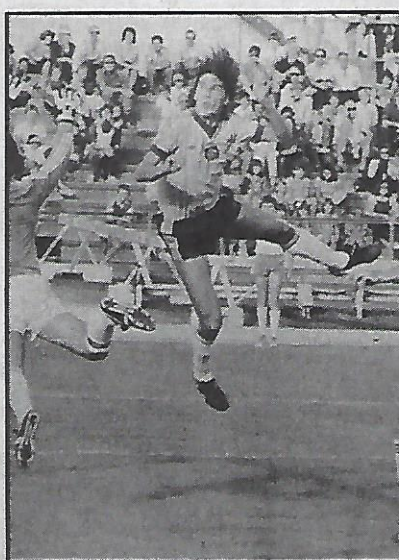
• Eddie Krncevic (standing, fifth from left) in Canton, China, with the Soccerroos in 1979. From left, standing: Gutendorf (coach), Cole, Mullen, Jankovics, Krncevic, Bertogna, Russell, Tansey, Henderson, Dr Kannangera (team doctor). Front: J Nyskohus, P O'Connor, Prskalo, Coyne, Boden, Rooney (rear), Crook (front), Cumming (rear), Woodhouse (front), Perry, Sharne.



• It was a clean sweep for Marconi in the 1979 player awards. Krncevic (left) was named Australian under 21 Player of the Year. Les Scheinflug Coach of the Year and Ivo Prskalo Player of the Year. With them are Marconi team-mates Mark Jankovics and Peter Sharne, and official Tony Labbozzetta.



• Krncevic scores for Melbourne Croatia against the now defunct Hakoah. At left are Hakoah goalkeeper Bill Whiteside and midfielder John Daperis.



• Krncevic leaps to score one of his two goals in a 3-3 World Cup qualifying game against New Zealand in Auckland in 1981. Australia lost the return game in Sydney and eventually was eliminated.



• Eddie Krncevic shows his determined style in a match for Marconi.



• Krncevic with the 1981 World Cup squad in New Zealand. From left: Maher, Giampaolo, Boden, Blair (obscured), Yzendoorn, Jankovics, Krncevic, Perry (rear), Sharne, Gutendorf (coach), Rogers (rear), Katholos (front), Barnes, Davidson, Henderson, Tansey, Kosmina.



• Krncevic races coach Rudi Gutendorf up the Great Wall of China on the Soccerroos' 1981 tour.



• Krncevic, as captain, accepts the Oceania Cup after the Soccerroos' triumph in Noumea in 1980.

Krncevic kills 'em in Belgium

Eddie Krncevic has taken Belgium by storm. In his first three games with Cercle Brugge, he scored two goals, set up three and was named man of the match each time.

Yesterday (Tuesday) he played for an all-star team against Belgium in a charity match to raise funds for the Ethiopia famine appeal.

The all-stars were made up of the best foreign players in Belgium.

The team was: Morten Olsen (Anderlecht) Edhem Silvo (FC Liegeois), Soeren Busk (Gent), Heinz Schoenberger (Beveren), Jim Batt (Lokeren), Joachim Benfeld (KV Malinois), Birger Jensen (Club Brugge), Dusko Lukic (KV Courtrai), N'goy Eugene Kabongo (FC Seraing), Toine Van Mierlo (RWDM) and Krncevic.

The Belgium national team used all its stars, including Erwin Vandenbergh, Jan Ceulemans, Rene Vandereycken, Nico Claesen, Alexandre Czerniatynski and Vincenzo Scifo.

The result of the match was not known as we went to Press, but it marked a highlight in the career of Krncevic, who set off three years ago to try his luck in Europe.

First he went to Dinamo Zagreb on a \$30,000 transfer from Marconi. The transfer fee, incidentally, was paid by a friend, Harry Mirksa. Before joining Marconi, Krncevic had played for Melbourne Croatia and, as a junior, for Juventus.

From Dinamo, he switched to West German Second Division Bundesliga club MSV Duisburg. From there, Krncevic takes up the story: "Joining Brugge happened so quickly. I still had six months left with Duisburg but I wasn't enjoying my game there, as I was playing in



midfield, so Duisburg loaned me out to Brugge for the remainder of the contract.

"I was really glad to be played up front again, and things started to go right for me from the very first game. It was against Anderlecht and although we lost 1-2, I set up the goal, and had a really good game.

„HET ELFTAL VAN DE WEEK“

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Boeckstaens (Antwerp) | Desloovere (Waregem) | Bodart (Standard) | M. Millecamps (Waregem) | Delen (Lierse) |
| Beyers (St-Niklaas) | Krncevic (SV Brugge) | Pier Janssen (Waterschei) | Kabongo (Seraing) | Thans (Luik) |
| <p>• Derde selectie voor Bodart, Boeckstaens, Voordeckers: twee de voor Marc Millecamps, Beyers, Kabongo</p> | | | | |

By
Laurie Schwab

• FAR LEFT: Krncevic (No. 9) rises high in a Belgian First Division match for Cercle Brugge and, at left, he's named in the league's "Team of the Week", although the paper got the name of the club wrong!

"I've had some really interesting offers from France and from some teams in England but I can't name them yet, as I promised them not to let out anything in the press until something is finalised.

"Also, Cercle Brugge, after only three games, wanted me to sign a contract for next season but I've told them that I'll have talks with them when this season ends."

Krncevic scored 17 goals in 33 games for

Australia from 1979 to 1981 but Soccerroo coach Frank Arok said recently he wasn't considering the big striker for the World Cup this year because Krncevic knows very few of the present national team players and never has trained with them.

In the light of Krncevic's remarkable exploits in Belgium, will Arok change his mind?



Canberra loses youth titles

Canberra — for the first time in five years — has had to decline to host the national youth titles.

And the reason? "The lack of suitably priced accommodation," said ACT federation president, Mr Roger Grylls.

"Usually the 160 competitors and officials have been accommodated at the Commonwealth-owned Gowrie Hotel, but because of extensive renovation work it is unavailable."

Mr Grylls said he now expected that the 1985 titles would be held in Sydney with teams and officials being accommodated at the former Endeavour Migrant Hostel.

— PETER WINDSOR

Weekend NSL matches with likely winners in capitals:

SOUTHERN DIVISION SATURDAY

GREEN GULLY v. Brisbane Lions at Green Gully Reserve, 3 pm, referee: S. Mallings.

SUNDAY

Preston-Makedonia v. BU-JUVENTUS at Connor Reserve, 3 pm, referee: J. Faen.

Melbourne Croatia v. HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER at Olympic Park, 3 pm, referee: C. Bambridge.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v. Footscray JUST at Middle Park, 3 pm, referee: S. Zoumas.

West Adelaide Hellas v. ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS at Hindmarsh Stadium, 2.30 pm, referee: D. Campbell.

Brisbane City v. Sunshine-George Cross (draw) at Spencer Park, 3 pm, referee: A. Kibbler.

NORTHERN DIVISION SATURDAY

Newcastle-Rosebud v. SYDNEY CROATIA at Adamstown Oval, 7 pm. Referee: T. Davies.

SUNDAY

MARCONI v. St. George Budapest at Marconi Stadium, 3 pm, referee: G. Power.

Success for Olympic, APIA doomed?

Meanwhile, though, Green Gully has the toughest possible task in the National Cup. It meets none other than mighty Sydney City Hakoah in a Cup double-header at St George Stadium tonight (Wednesday).

The later match is between Sydney Olympic and APIA, whose fortunes contrast sharply this week.

Olympic looks set to beat APIA in the Cup and Canberra in the league, while APIA

From page 1

looks doomed to two defeats — the second against Inter-Monaro on Sunday.

Arno Bertogna and Tony Morsello both were sent off last Sunday, and even the inclusion of Jim Hamilton from Scotland won't compensate for Bertogna's absence in particular.

Inter-Monaro should have Lini Dragovic in the team (see page 2) and Sebastian Grampalo should be back after injury, to give Inter

Monaro its first win in the NSL.

South Melbourne Hellas, out of the National Cup, can concentrate on the league, and is almost certain to beat JUST at Middle Park, to perhaps take over at the top of the ladder, should Melbourne Croatia lose to Heidelberg.

JUST, however, hopes to regain Vlatko Belic and Branimir Jovic who missed last weekend's game due to injury. Hellas is starting to look good again and will improve even more when Oscar Crino gets fitter.

Sydney Croatia is developing into the most glamorous side in Australia, with Zarko Ouzakov signing from Makedonia, and Vedran Rozic having gained his clearance from Yugoslavia.

Results are what count, though, and so Croatia will have to beat Newcastle in the night game at Adamstown oval on Saturday night. Willie Gallagher's boys aren't overawed by glamor, though. Quite the contrary, they'll be eager to prove themselves better than the glamor boys from the big smoke.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

| | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| MELB. CROATIA | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | |
| BRISBANE LIONS | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | |
| STH. MELB. HELLAS | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | |
| H'BERG ALEXANDER | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | |
| PRESTON MAKEDONIA | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| BU-Juventus | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| West Adel. Hellas | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| Brisbane City | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Sun. George Cross | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Adel. City Juventus | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Green Gully | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Footscray JUST | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 0 |

NORTHERN DIVISION

| | W | D | L | F | A | Pt |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| SYD. CITY HAKOAH | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| SYDNEY OLYMPIC | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | |
| CANBERRA OLYMPIANS | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | |
| MARCONI | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | |
| PENRITH | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | |
| Wollongong | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| Blacktown | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| APIA-Leichhardt | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| Sydney Croatia | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Newcastle-Rosebud | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| St Geo Budapest | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Inter-Monaro | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 |

BORAL BRICKS

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BRYANT LEADS

Steve Bryant of Canberra Olympians leads the Boral Bricks \$1500 Player of the Year award after his second best-on-the-ground performance.

And three players are joint leaders, with three goals each, in the Boral Bricks \$1000 top scorer's award. They are Mark Jankovics (Marconi), Charlie Egan (SM-Hellas) and John Kosmina (SC-Hakoah).

Leading vote-getters:

11 Jackson (BL), Cristaldo (Melb C), Gomez (St), Egan (SMH),
10 Honeyman (WA), Kosmina (SC),
9 Goshing (Newc), Boogaard (Newc), Jankovics (Marc).
Top scorers:
3 Jankovics (Marc), Kosmina (SC), Egan (SMH),
2 Colagiuri (APIA), Arnold (Syd C), Stevenson (H'berg), House (Melb C), Gomez (SC), Lewis (GG).

Team of the Week

In brackets: Number of appearances in team of the week.

| TRAIANIDIS (1) (Makedonia) | DOBSON (1) (Makedonia) | JACKSON (2) (Brisb. Lions) | JENNINGS (1) (Syd. Olympic) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| VALENTINE (1) (H'berg-Alex) | MIRANDA (1) (BU-Juventus) | BRYANT (2) (Can. Olympians) | REIS (1) (Brisb. City) |
| STEVENSON (1) (H'berg-Alex) | EGAN (2) (SM-Hellas) | REIS (1) (Brisb. City) | |

SOUTHERN DIVISION

SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS 0 MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (House 26th, Ward 46th) at Chaplin Reserve. Crowd: about 3500. Ratings by Craig MacKenzie.

SUNSHINE-GEORGE CROSS: Kastner 7 — Taylor 7, Richardson 6, Bennett 5, Campbell 5 — Mitten 6, Faulkner 5, McLaren 5 (Bain 88th), Istak 6 (Scoti 80th) — Glider 6, Latif 5, Coach: John Gardiner.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Runje 7, Curcio 7, Parton 8, Antolovic 7, Hannah 7 — Denkovik 7, Biskic 7, Cristaldo 6, Cumming 7 — Ward 7, House 7 (Sabjak 83rd), Coach: Miron Bleiberg (caretaker).

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Cristaldo (MC), 5 Faulkner (SGC), 4 Parton (MC), 3 Biskic (MC), 2 Hannah (MC), 1 Taylor (Jsg).

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (Cullen 28th) GREEN GULLY 0 at Olympic Park No. 2. Crowd: about 1500. Ratings by Ken Kontra.

JUVENTUS: Banovic 7 — Lewis 7, Brown 8, Dowie 7, Campbell 8 — Wade 7, Miranda 9, Incantulpo 8 — Cullen 7, Sweeney 7, Zinni 8. Coach: John Margaritis.

GREEN GULLY: Denys 8 — Murray 6, Young 8, Cannell 7, McLelland 7 — Smallman 6 (Vassallo 80th), Lloyd 7, Williams 8 — Smart 7, Lewis 7, Lucchesi 6. Coach: Bobby McLachlan.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Miranda (BJ), 5 Williams (GG), 4 Zinni (BJ), 3 Denys (GG), 2 Young (GG), 1 Campbell (BJ).

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 4 (Solemidis 21st, Stevenson 61st, 75th, Tasios), FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. 0 at Olympic Village. Crowd: about 2500. Ratings by Laurie Schwab.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 8 — McKie 8, Angela 7, Yankos 7, Marley 7 — Metaxas 7, Solemidis 7, Valentine 8 — Stevenson 9, Winn 8, Tasios 7. Coach: Brian Garvey.

J.U.S.T.: Turudia 7 — Karic 8 — Vagias 5, Curovic 4, Lujic 6 — Lazopoulos 5, Janjic 5, O'Donnell 5, Tapai 8 — Carroll 7, Stojilovic 6. Coach: Cedo Cirikovic.

Best six for Boral Bricks award: 6 Stevenson (H), 5 Valentine (H), 4 Winn (H), 3 McKie (H), 2 Karic (UST), 1 Oliver (H).

NORTHERN DIVISION

CANBERRA CITY OLYMPIANS 2 (Hebb own goal 40th, Bryant penalty 68th) PENRITH 2 (Wotherspoon 41st, Easthouse 91st) at Jamieson Oval, Canberra. Crowd: 1460. Ratings by Peter Windsor.

CANBERRA: Franken 7, Jones 7, Harkins 7, Burke 7, Midallides 8, Semmanni 8, Byrne 7, Bryant 9, Gibson 6, English 7, Perinovic 7. Coach: Roy Thompson.

PENRITH: Gibson 7, Cross 7, Macintosh 8, Ainsworth 7, Brogan 7, Toohey 7 (Carboni 78th), Hebb 7, Wotherspoon 8, Easthouse 8, Jackson 7, Licata 7. Coach: Willie Wallace.

Best six for Boral Bricks award: 6 Bryant (C), 5 Midallides (C), 4 McIntosh (P), 3 Semmanni (C), 2 Wotherspoon (P), 1 English (C).

MARCONI 2 (Jankovics 65th, Brown 87th) NEWCASTLE 2 (McLelland 81st, Milosevic 83rd) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 1140. Ratings by Alex Vesic.

MARCONI: McPherson 7, Carter 7, Henderson 7, Calderin 7, Rizzotto 7, Mason 7, Driene 6 (Sharne 64th), Trednick 8, Lowe 6, Jankovics 7, Brown 7. Coach: Les Scheinflug.

NEWCASTLE: Goshing 8, Maier 7, Boogaard 8, Jones 7, Owens 6, Kerby 6, Senkalski 7, Naumov 6 (Fawks 64th), Jones 6, McLelland 6, Milosevic 7. Coach: Willie Gallagher.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Goshing (N), 5 Trednick (N), 4 Boogaard (N), 3 Jankovics (M), 2 Milosevic (N), 1 Brown (M).

WOLLONGONG 2 (Gozik 46th, M. Kovacic o.g. 72nd) SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Patikas 70th) at Wollongong Showgrounds. Crowd: 2500. Ratings by Knut Werner.

WOLLONGONG: Vardareff 8, Green 7, Willis 8, Dickson 8, Matias 7, Kerr 7 (Brodnik 70th), Bundalo 8, Hristovski 7, Godzik 7, Kotamandis 7. Coach: Adrian Alston.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Woodhouse 7, A. Kovacic 6, Rozic 6, Vidale 6 (sent off 76th), Tomasich 7, Basic 6 (Rezo 75th), Savor 7, M. Kovacic 7, Jurin 7, Arnold 6, Patikas 7. Coach: Vedran Rozic.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (Egan 74th) at Connor Reserve. Attendance: 5000 (estimate). Ratings by Peter Desira:

MAKEDONIA: Traianidis 9, McMillan 8, Dobson 9, Dunn 7, Opasinis 7, (Petrov 48th), 6 Flavell 7, Ilioski 8, Heys 7, Spink 8, Lane 7, Cole 7. Coach: Bill Murray.

HELLAS: Laumets 7, Russell 7, Yzendoorn 8, Blair 8, Postecoglou 8, McDowell 7, Halford 7, Crino 7, Murphy 7, Egan 9, Brown 7. Coach: Len McKendry.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Traianidis (PM), 5 Egan (SMH), 4 Dobson (PM), 3 Yzendoorn (SMH), 2 Ilioski (PM), 1 Postecoglou (SMH).

BRISBANE LIONS 1 (McGregor 7) WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 at Richlands. Crowd: 1218. Ratings by Ricky Rosso:

LIONS: Evans 7 — McKimming 8, Redmond 6, Jackson 9, Niven 8, R. Stewart 8, J. Stewart 8, Ogden 6 — Anderson 6 (Hunter 88th), Carney 7, McGregor 7. Coach: Gordon Arowanath.

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS: Sproul 8 — Hiern 7, Honeyman 8, Brown 7, Metiscak 6 — McGregor 7, Atrasal 6 (Molsidilis 77th), Panagis 6 (Stamatopoulos 64th) — Scott 6, Konstantopoulos 7, Stefanopoulos 6. Coach: Neil McGachey.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Jackson (BL), 5 J. Stewart (BL), 4 Honeyman (WA), 3 Sproul (WA), 2 R. Stewart (BL), 1 McKimming (BL).

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 1 (Costanzo 17th) BRISBANE CITY 1 (Reis 32nd) at Olympic Sports Field. Crowd: 1800. Ratings by Allan Crisp:

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS: McNally 8 — Donnelly 6, Flounders 8, Nyskohus 8, Cecere 8, Santoro 8 (Rankin 59th), Northcote 7, Vilani 7, Maxwell 7, Mullen 8, Costanzo 8. Coach: Edmund Krick.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart 8, Fabrizio 8, Wilkinson 8, Milovanovic 8, Bromfield 8, Junna 7, Robinson 6, Mengotti 6, Carey 6 — Gloekner 7. Reis 9. Coach: Tony Lowndes.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Reis (BC), 5 Flounders (AC), 4 Nyskohus (AC), 3 Wishart (BC), 2 Cecere (AC), 1 Fabrizio (BC).

NORTHERN DIVISION

BLACKTOWN 1 (Larkin 32nd) INTER MONARO 0 at the Gabbie. Ratings by George Streeter:

BLACKTOWN: Hoare 9, Skellern 8, Wheatley 7, Rassmussen 7, Bourke 7, Selvaige 6, Knight 6 (Hormazabal 70th), Thornwaite 6, Bradley 8, Larkin 7. O'Connor 7. Coach: Casey de Brun.

INTER MONARO: Hocking 8, Walsh 7, Tittles 7, Santolin 8, Budini 7, Carbone 6, Armbrósio 6, Wilcox 7, Thámides 7, (Frances 65th), Valeri 7, Brennan 8. Coach: Josef Procop.

Best six for Boral Bricks best player award: 6 Hoare (B), 5 Hocking (IM), 4 Brennan (IM), 3 Skellern (B), 2 Bradley (B), 1 Santolin (IM).

ST GEORGE OLYMPIC 1 (Raskopoulos 1 min) at St George Stadium. Attendance: 6561. Ratings by Andrew Dettre:

ST GEORGE: Greedy 6, Skeen 5, M. O'Shea 5, Ratcliffe 6, Koczak 6, Stone 4, (Ricoy 63min), J. O'Shea 5, Bark 4, Slater 5, Cotton 5, Marton 4 (Petkovski 53min), Coach: Frank Ark.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Maier 6, Johnston 6, Ziras 7, Lambropoulos 6, Jennings 7, Phillips 6, Raskopoulos 6, Katholos 6, Soper 5, (Polias 80min), Theodorakopoulos 4, Kalantzis 6. Coach: Manfred Schaefer.

Best six for Boral Bricks award: 6 Jennings (SO), 5 Ziras (SO), 4 Kalantzis (SO), 3 Koczka (STG), 2 Phillips (SO), 1 Johnston (SO).

APIA 0 SC HAKOAH 4 (Kosmina 6th, Gomez 47th and 51st, Lee 89th) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 2459. Ratings by Mick Mikolajczyk:

APIA: Catlin 5, Casaccia 5, Bertogna 7 (sent off 74th), Rowden 6, Brown 5, Reda 5, Butler 6, De Ceglie 6, Colagiuri 7, Caban 5, Morsello 4 (sent off 29th), Coach: Phil Bottolito.

SC HAKOAH: Clarke 8, Gomez 9, S. O'Connor 8, Robertson 7, Cant 7, Watson 7, Kay 7, Barnes 7 (Rodriguez 78th), Farina (sent off 29th), Kosmina 8, Lee 7. Coach: Eddie Thomson.

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Who needs Kapetanovic when you've got Bleiburg and Cristaldo?

**S.G. Cross 0
M. Croatia 2**
Scorers: House 26th, Ward 46th.
Venue: Chaplin Reserve.
Crowd: about 3,500.
Cautions: Mitten (SGC).
Referee: Bernie Upjohn 7.



Craig Mackenzie

So Domagoj Kapetanovic still hasn't arrived? Big deal, say some Croatian committeemen who are starting to think that perhaps caretaker coach Miron Bleiburg is the man for the job anyway and wonder if the expense incurred in bringing Kapetanovic to Australia will be worthwhile.

Plainly, Croatia's 3-0 and 2-0 wins in successive games and subsequent leadership of the Southern Division are making these committeemen rethink the plan to bring out Kapetanovic. The other part of that plan involves Kapetanovic bringing two Croatian players with him but one wonders about the need for that. Jim Campbell, Steve Gojevic, Zeljko Govic and Ako Kotzamichalis didn't play against Sunshine-George Cross so maybe Bleiburg's squad has enough depth already. It certainly has enough quality.

Jeff Faulkner's tremendous second-half display was the one really bright note for the losers. Gerry Bennett and Steve Richardson got mixed up for both Croatia goals but maybe it just was one of those days for they had played well against Heidelberg the previous week judging from all reports.

What a find Victor Cristaldo is proving to be! He was irresistible in the first half when he was playing neat one-two sending cheeky chips just over an opponent's head to the feet of a team mate. His delightful skills also were tempered with a fine positional sense and the ability to close down and pressure opponents, often winning possession. When the game flattened out in the last 25 minutes with Croatia cruising on top of a two-goal cushion, Cristaldo wasn't so prominent and during this period, Faulkner ruled the roost in midfield.

However, Faulkner received little support. Don MacLaren, a good player, had an off day, as did Cross striker Ossie Latif. Chris Gilder kept offering himself and rarely lost balls played to his feet. Noel Mitten looked more dangerous in the second half, especially when he came inside, while Ivan Istuk flashed in and out of the game and found get-

ting past Tony Curcio a tough task.

But chances were hard to come by for Sunshine-George Cross.

Gary Ward won the ball from Bennett in the 10th minute but shot just wide of the far post, then four minutes later, the late arrival of Richardson in the Croatia area went unnoticed but his header from an Istuk free kick was well wide.

Ward should have scored in the 22nd minute. He laid the

**Man of the match:
VICTOR CRISTALDO
(Melb. Croatia)**

ball off superbly to Drago Deankovic on the right, charged toward the near post but struck Deankovic's low cross over the top from six metres.

Then House struck, winning possession when Bennett and Richardson got mixed up, knocked the ball into the unguarded goal in the 26th minute.

Six minutes before the break, Mitten almost scored. Chris Taylor crossed to the far post where the unmarked Mitten had to slide down to get a touch. He just connected, sending the ball inches wide.

Kastner had come off second best in a clash with Tommy Cumming in the first half and required stitches to a gash above his right eye during half time.

A minute into the second half, the contest was over. Hesitation by Bennett and Richardson let Ward in to poke the ball past Kastner from six metres — two mistakes, two goals — Sunshine-George Cross had paid the ultimate penalty.

House got clear in the 53rd minute but shot into the side netting then two Biskin corners found Shaun Parton towering above everyone at the far post in the 57th and 63rd minutes. Parton's first attempt went straight to Kastner. His second, struck with awesome power, was spectacularly tipped over by Kastner.

Sunshine-George Cross created its best chance in the 80th minute. Roger Bain had



Victor Cristaldo

replaced MacLaren and slipped the ball to Latif on the left of the Croatia area but he smashed his shot wide of the near post from eight metres.



Andrew Dettre

**Man of the match:
GRAHAM JENNINGS
(Syd. Olympic)**

**St. George 0
Syd. Olympic 1**

Goal: Raskopoulos 1 min.
Venue: St. George Stadium.
Crowd: 5661.

Cautions: Ratcliffe, Stone, Barton, Cotton (SG), Raskopoulos, Kalantzis (SO).
Referee: Richard Lorenz.

St George has serious problems with its team once again. The 1984 tight-rope walk could be repeated if Saints don't patch up things fast!

In this tense, at times spiteful game, they were outplayed and out thought by an Olympic which itself was a long way from its best.

Ironically, the match was decided after 1 min 53 seconds.

A long Phillips throw-in was controlled by Raskopoulos and, from some 15 metres, slammed into the far corner of a far from alert Terry Greedy.

In the 24th minute a Cotton header and three minutes later a sudden Soper shot smashed against the crossbar to liver up a fairly dull first half.

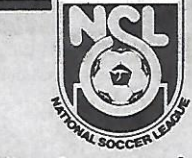
In the second 45 minutes the Saints showed much more bite and aggression but this only got them a batch of yellow cards.

Kalantzis headed just over the bar in the 52nd and, at the other hand, Cotton stumbled as he was about to poke a ball into the open goal.

Both teams had one or two more half chances but hardly enough to entice about.

Still, in midfield, Olympic was far superior to a bitterly disappointing Saints.

The Stone-Barton-J.O'Shea triumvirate lacks enough distributing skills to be effective. Individually they are all fine



Puskas and old boys show how

players but as a threesome, they appear to have the wrong blend.

Of course, the Saints' attack was just as pathetic and if you add to this an ordinary defence, you'll come up with a very pedestrian team unlikely to trouble the leaders.

Sydney Olympic, even without star defender Dakos, was rock solid at the back, thanks to evergreen Jim Ziros and that effervescent Graham Jennings.

But they, too, have problems in the attack where only the impulsive, youthful zest of Kalantzis could be praised.

Soper was subdued, without his usual fire and if Theodorakopoulos wants to do a big favor to pressmen and to ground announcers, he will adopt, even if unofficially, a 'soccer name' to save us from getting lost in the labyrinths of his 16 tongue-twisting letters.

In an early game — an old boys encounter — former Hungarian hero Ferenc Puskas led a team of Magyar emigres against Pan Hellenic's Greeks — and lost 3-1.

But let one hasten to add that the best Greek was the South American Hector Martinez, almost a ring-in at his impudent 33 or so among players of 40, 50 and more.

Puskas still showed touches of his genius, with passes sprayed 35 metres and further with laser-like precision.

The fans could admire the almost intact skills of former stars Schauman, Lang, Zuckerman, Pompor, Takaes, Abonyi, Patrinos, McCulloch and others.

And seeing the still silky smooth Schauman or Pompor control the ball we all wondered why today's performers find these basic skills so difficult to master. But they do

Bertogna, Forina, Morsello sent off

**APIA 0
SC-Hakoah 4**

Scorers: (Kosmina 6th, Gomez 47th and 51st, Leo 89th).

Send-offs: Farina (H), Morsello (A), Bertogna (A).

Cautions: Kosmina (H), Causacio, Brown, Rowden, DeCeglie (all APIA).

Crowd: 2459
Referee: G. Power 6

Referee Gary Power probably has set some sort of unenviable record which one hopes will not be emulated.

The referee reached into his pocket all of nine times for three red cards and six yellow ones. On average, some sort of card was flashed every 10 minutes. Add to that an inordinate amount of freekicks and you can imagine why the players and fans were irate.

Certainly, some of the fouls which earned cautions were nowhere near as bad as the referee's actions suggested and both coaches agreed that the cautions were handed out too readily.

Another possible explanation is the clash of playing styles. Hakoah, an experienced team, plays tough, aggressive and direct soccer which proves frustrating for opposing teams.

APIA's inexperience was painfully obvious as their young players frequently lost control and were bullied into retaliation. A succession of fouls was followed by a similar succession of cautions.

Three of Hakoah's goals came from set pieces — each the result of a freekick invariably for an unnecessary foul.

After only six minutes, Hakoah was in front. John Kosmina's left-foot shot crept into the far corner after Grant



Mick Mikolajczyk

**Man of the match:
GERARDO GOMEZ
(SC-Hakoah)**

Lee had centred Joe Watson's free kick.

In the 29th minute tragedy struck both teams. Strikers Frank Farina and Tony Morsello were sent off for serious foul play — fighting — after a clash in mid-field. Admittedly tempers were hot but little ensued out of the untidy scuffle and the sending off seemed harsh.

The early expulsions did not act as a deterrent and the colored cards continued to appear for the rest of the game.

From a freekick just two minutes after haltime, Gerardo Gomez increased Hakoah's lead with a delicate header over APIA's slowly advancing keeper Rob Catlin.

Another freekick, this time by Jim Cant in the 51 minute, saw Gomez race through a pack of defenders to side-foot a five-metre volley past the mesmerized keeper.

It wasn't until the 53rd minute that APIA managed to seriously threaten. Todd Clarke's goal. However the ever-alert keeper made three brilliant saves in quick succession to thwart APIA's speedsters Colaguri and De Ceglie.

APIA was dealt another body blow when its key defender and best player Arno Bertogna body-checked Grant Lee in the 74th minute and was sent off because of a second cautionable offence.

APIA's under-strength youngsters somehow managed to contain the score thanks to some close misses by the hard-running Hakoah outfit.

Gomez at right back covered vast amounts of territory and typified his team's competitive outlook as he defended resolutely and took every opportunity to push forward in a bid to complete a hat-trick.

A minute from time Grant Lee completed the day's scoring. John Kosmina's banana shot was parried by keeper Catlin and Lee slammed the rebound in from an acute angle.

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Gerardo Gomez

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**Bris. Lions 1
WA-Hellas 0**

Scorer: McGregor 77th.
Venue: Richlands
Cautions: Panagis 36th.
Referee: Dave Nugent 9

Brisbane Lions' young defender Steve Jackson was the answer to national coach Frank Arok's troublesome right back position.

Jackson, 21, showed in Lions' 1-0 win over West Adelaide at Richlands that he has all the skill, temperament and adaptability to be a Soccer Australia player.

Jackson was a last-minute switch to sweep when Lions lost their central defence of Rod Vasquez and Alan Hunter through injury on Friday night.

He was unbeaten in challenges while his distribution was as pinpoint as that of the man he used to watch closely in the Lions NSL team four years ago, Jim Hermiston.

Jackson, who played right-back for Queensland against New South Wales last year, can hit the ball sweetly with either foot and as a fullback, he is one of the best attackers in the business.

"He said it all on the park. It was a magnificent display,"



Ricky Rosso

Lions coach Gordon Arrowsmith said.

While Jackson helped anchor the Lions defence, which also included new Canberra signing Tony Redmond as Hunter's replacement, some of his team-mates showed considerably less experience with their handling of West's offside trap.

The Lions repeatedly were caught out of their ground and brilliant work in midfield by John and Russell Stewart was wasted.

Lions opened their account after only seven minutes with a move which they should have repeated over and again to beat the offside trap. Speedy striker Joe Cairney took on the defence and ran the ball to the byline. There, with a clever half-shuffle he beat Ian McGregor and played a cross ball to the far post where the unmarked Tom McGregor

**Man of the match:
STEVE JACKSON
(Brisb. Lions)**

headed in.

But Lions seemed to relax after the goal and West Adelaide, who were without five regulars, nearly snatched back an equaliser when George Konstantopoulos broke through in the 33rd minute.

But Lions keeper Wayne Evans, who has been in superb touch, spearheaded himself to block the youngster's powerful shot.

Lions looked more purposeful in the second half and Cairney was desperately unlucky not to get on to the score-sheet.

But despite the chances, Lions were forced to hang on until the death. Arrowsmith even resorted to putting partly-injured stopper Alan Hunter on for a five-man defence for the final five minutes to ensure a home win.

The result took Lions to second on the table, but unless they begin putting away the chances, even the brilliance of Jackson at the back won't keep them in the top five.

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Rozic in, Vidaic sent off

Man of the match:
SCOTT DICKSON
(Wollongong)

Wollongong 2 Syd. Croatia 1

Goals: Godzik 46th, Patikas 70th M. Kovacic o.g. 72nd.
Venue: Wollongong Showgrounds
Crowd: 2600

Referee: T. Seacy 9
Sent off: Vidaic 76th.
Caution: Bundalo (W)

Sydney Croatia coach Vedran Rozic finally got his clearance from Hajduk Split after a long wrangle, and resumed as a player in this defeat.

He played for Sydney Croatia last year until Hajduk protested that it had not OK'd his transfer, even though the Yugoslav Federation had cleared him.

But even with Rozic on the field and playing well, Sydney Croatia lost its second match in two weeks, falling victim of Adrian Alston's giant-killers.

To make matters worse, Bano Vidaic got his marching orders after 77 minutes — three minutes after Croatia had equalised.

Vidaic flattened Wollongong winger Bernie Godzik in a tackle after having received a yellow card before half-time.

Almost immediately after Vidaic had left the scene, Wollongong scored its winning goal.

The goal came off the head of Croatia defender Marjan Kovacic after Wolves fullback Phil Matias had sent an optimistic cross towards goal.

It was ironic the home side should have had to rely on an own goal as it created enough chances to have the game sewn up by that stage.

After a shaky start Wollongong took the lead 30 seconds into the second half as good work on the left by Dominic Giannone.

He eluded fullback Alex Kovacic and his high curling cross was headed home by Godzik.

Croatia equalised after 73 minutes through the energetic Jim Patikas.

He turned on a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area to send a low drive out of the reach of goalkeeper Natch Vardareff.

For Croatia, Patikas looked a big threat in the first half but the home side gradually contained him.

Central defenders Scott Dickson and Peter Willis again starred for the Wollongong team, gaining strong support from midfielders Alex Bundalo and Zivko Hristovski.



Green Gully defender Steve McClelland (left) faces double trouble as Juventus stars Joe Sweeney and Andrew Zinni put him under pressure. At right is Green Gully's latest recruit, Andrew Young. Picture by LES SHORROCK.

At last — a positive display from Juve!



Ken Kontra

B. Juventus 1 Green Gully 0

Scorer: Cullen 28th
Venue: Olympic Park No. 2.
Crowd: About 1500
Yellow Cards: Young (GG), Murray (GG), Zinni (BJ), Dowie (BJ), Miranda (BJ).

Referee: Chris Bembridge 9
Juventus, desperate for a win after a poor start to the season, approached this game in a positive mood and with a great deal of aggression, particularly in the first half.

Green Gully the loser against Hellas the previous week, also displayed similar tendencies, and as a consequence, this was quite an exciting match, although due to good defensive work by both teams, clear-cut scoring chances were at a premium.

New recruits Paul Wade and Kevin Lloyd were in action early against their former clubs with Wade heading over the bar from close range in the 2nd minute and Lloyd dispatching a Paul Lewis pass from 12 metres in similar fashion.

Lloyd had a reasonable game overall, and Wade showed glimpses of his excellent 1984 form, but the midfield honours were shared by Richard Miranda and Jimmy Williams.

Miranda, although collecting a yellow card in the 81st minute, played with discipline and in addition to his usual

Man of the match:
RICHARD MIRANDA
(BU-Juventus)

hard tackling, distributed the ball well and produced some fine touches.

Williams displayed his usual immaculate ball skills, and pacing himself well, was Green Gully's most involved player throughout the 90 minutes.

Juventus hit the front in the 28th minute. Yacka Banovic spotted Andrew Zinni on the halfway line, for once without his shadow. Andrew Young, Zinni had time to control the goalkeeper's clearance, turn, run at young and beat him with his acceleration to the goal-line.

His cross was dummed by Joe Sweeney, and Robert Cullen, backing up, had time to pick his spot from the edge of the penalty area.

Gully tried hard for the equaliser, and had a fair share of the ball, particularly in the second half, but for once goal-scoring machine Paul Lewis failed to deliver the goods.

Bobby McLachlan replaced



Fabio Incantalupo

David Smallman with Willie Vassallo with 10 minutes to go and Gully pushed forward, but Juve was untroubled to hang on to its well-deserved lead.

I am sure many supporters were disappointed and went home even before the match started. Little Athletics were held at the No. 1 ground and with the Moscow Circus further down the road, the gates of the car parks were closed just before 2.30pm and fans were turned away. Surely, arrangements should have been made to accommodate the soccer crowd, but as always, the comfort of the followers of the round ball game was given low priority.

Cheers for O'Connor, Blacktown

Blacktown 1 Inter Monaro 0

Scorer: Larkin 32nd
Ground: Gabbie
Crowd: 962
Referee: A. Owens 7
Cautions: Brennan, Budini (IM)

Phil O'Connor and the Demons celebrated as Blacktown City notched its first win of the season, beating Inter Monaro by the narrowest of margins.

O'Connor, playing in his 200th NSL game and Blacktown in its first home game of the 1988 season, had every reason to celebrate.

The home side played well and created half a dozen opportunities, but was happy to go away with two points, thanks to a John Larkin effort after 32 minutes. He was on hand to head home a well measured cross by Phil O'Connor and that goal proved decisive.

In fact, the result does not fully reflect the effort and creativity of both sides. Inter Monaro came to the Gabbie with Walter Valeri, Tony Brennan and Angelo Ambrosio, but without Sebastian Giampolo, who was on the injured list. Despite the absence of Giampolo, the visitors certainly showed a lot of aggression and were always in with a chance.

Valeri showed his intentions early with a sizzling shot which was brilliantly saved by Barry Hoare. With Blacktown leading by the slenderest of margins and only 20 minutes left, Valeri decided to try his luck again. He ran across the edge of the area to unleash one of his left foot drives only to see Hoare save yet again.

And while Valeri and Brennan (who also had shots saved by Hoare) would rue this day, and the form of the Demons' keeper, Blacktown's forwards also threw everything at Mi-

CLASS PLAYERS NEEDED: KOVAC

Heidelberg 4 Footscray JUST 0

Scorers: Salemidis 21st, Stevenson 61st & 75th, Tasios 82nd.
Venue: Olympic Village.
Cautions: Janjic (JUST)
Referee: Fokianos 8.

A brilliant second half performance by striker Stewart Stevenson powered Heidelberg Alexander to this 4-0 victory and left Heidelberg undefeated in 10 matches so far this year, including the night series which it won.

J.U.S.T. has won only one of eight matches, prompting club director Tony Kovac to say after the game that the club would redouble its efforts to sign two or three top class players locally and from overseas.

Heidelberg led 1-0 at half time after a headed goal by captain Theo Salemidis in the 21st minute.

J.U.S.T. sorely missed its star midfielder Vlatko Bojic and defender Branimir Jovic who both were injured.

Two Vagias, signed from Heidelberg during the week, made his J.U.S.T. debut at right back, while Suleiman Curovic was used as a stopper without success.

Sweeper Tom Karic tried hard but even he was unable to stem the Heidelberg tide in the second half.

Before the onslaught, J.U.S.T.'s Milan Stojilovic twice was foiled by the grand goalkeeping of Jeff Olver who saved shots in the 25th and 29th minutes.

And Joe Carroll, who worked hard, hit the crossbar with a powerful drive just before half time.

Heidelberg took over after the break when Stevenson and his fellow strikers Steve Winn and Steve Tasios hit their straps.

Mike Valentine, who starred in mid-field, made the play that resulted in Stevenson scoring Heidelberg's second goal in the 61st minute.

Valentine was to remain at the heart of all of Heidelberg's attacks.

He played a square pass which Stevenson latched onto before barging past the defenders to score goal number three with a shot that went between Karic's legs in the 75th minute.

It was left to Tasios to complete the scoring eight minutes from the end with a header after a cross from Stevenson.

Left back Zdravko Lujic



Laurie Schwab

stormed forward a few times to try for a consolation goal for J.U.S.T., but his best attempt was snuffed out by Olver, who thus maintained his uncanny form.

J.U.S.T. coach Cedo Cirkovic called him "the best goalkeeper in Australia" after the match.

His J.U.S.T. counterpart Mark Turudia couldn't be blamed for any of the goals. In fact, he did extremely well to prevent Winn (twice) and Salemidis from adding to the score.

You had to feel sorry for Winn. He worked himself into the ground and terrorised the J.U.S.T. defence throughout the match, but simply could not score. Things went so badly for him inside the box that he even missed the ball when he took a swipe at it.

Stevenson paid tribute to Valentine after the game. "He was the best goalkeeper I've ever seen," he said.



Man of the match:
STEWART STEVENSON
(Heidelberg)

has to be the most underrated midfielder in the country. I advise the national coach, Mr. Ark, to have a close look at him," Stevenson said.

Ernie Ipatit tried very hard for J.U.S.T., bringing the ball up the flank and getting involved in almost every attack, but Bill Lazopoulos on the other side was less prominent.

Curovic, who lost the ball so many times by trying to hold onto it for too long, eventually was moved out of defence, into the midfield with Brian O'Donnell dropping back.

But J.U.S.T.'s defence became even looser in the second half, during which Stevenson especially found himself with acres of room.

Ian McKie was excellent as usual at right back for Heidelberg and it was his cross which resulted in the first goal, headed in by Salemidis. John Metaxas also caught the eye with some snappy midfield work.

Carter had no cover



Alex Vesic

Marconi 2 N.-Rosebud 2

Scorers: Jankovics 65th, B. 97th, McClelland 81st, Milsoski 83rd.
Venue: Marconi Stadium.
Cautions: Boogaard (N), Senkalski (N).

On a sunny afternoon at Bossley Park, few people among the 1200 present could complain about the show put on by the home side. It was an all-out attack from start to finish, but with little to show for it.

Newcastle-Rosebud, still battling some financial problems, showed immense courage and determination.

Its defence, at times numbering eight or nine men, was well led by Clint Gosling and Mike Boogaard and denied Marconi for more than an hour.

Then came a goal by Mark Jankovics which looked enough to secure the points for Marconi. David Lowe took Marconi's tenth corner of the day, Rod Brown headed towards the far post and in came Jankovics to head past Gosling.

Marconi moved the ball about with confidence and stretched Newcastle from all angles.

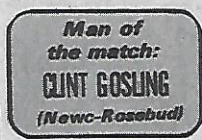
However, the "never-say-die" attitude displayed by Newcastle paid off in a devastating spell of counter-attacking soccer.

With 16 minutes remaining, Paul Carter was caught upfield and his position at full-back was vacant! A counter by Owens, followed by a short cross found goalkeeper Alex McPherson and David Jones going for the ball. A strong challenge by Jones had McPherson drop the ball at the feet of Jones, who chipped it back for McClelland to score from 16 metres.

McPherson, incidentally, has joined Marconi from Melita Eagles.

Marconi came back strongly and almost regained the lead through Jankovics who broke through on the right but his shot just skimmed the crossbar. Seconds later it was David Lowe who broke through to face Gosling, attempted to go around the keeper and lost the ball in the process!

Well, if you are so benevolent you are bound to pay for it. That was the message from the Newcastle camp as Joe Senkalski found Neil Owens with a brilliant crossfield pass which left Marconi's defence exposed again. Owens, with metres to spare, decided to shoot from outside the box and struck the



Man of the match:
CLINT GOSLING
(Newcastle-Rosebud)

Two minutes later Marconi was not so lucky. Jones got the break on the left as Marconi's defence failed yet again to cover for its adventurous full-back Carter. Jones crossed to the far post for Dean Milsoski to glide home a right-footer which gave the visitors an unexpected lead.

Marconi came back strongly in the closing stages to score after a solo run by Rod Brown. Then, in the closing seconds it was Brown again who soared high to head past Gosling but against the crossbar! In came Jankovics to head goalwards but by then Gosling was on his feet to save!

Les Scheinflug was detected after the match. "There was so much pressure on my players to win this one. They were expected to win and when you are under that kind of pressure then it is inevitable that mistakes are made. We failed to cover for our attacking fullback and we paid for it, yet we had so many openings and should have won comfortably."

The game, which ended in a 2-2 draw, featured 16 corner kicks — 14 to Marconi and only two Newcastle. It was of little comfort to Scheinflug who is having little luck on and off the field at Marconi. Under pressure from some members of Marconi's committee, he was facing Monday night's committee meeting without a loss, but also without a win in the opening rounds of this year's championship.

Hennessey on list
• Dean Hennessey has been transferred listed by Box Hill (Vic) at his own request.
Hennessey has been used in mid-field recently by Box Hill coach Keith Webster and despite scoring three goals in three games. It seems that he doesn't figure in Webster's plans.

Hennessey probably is best suited to a central defensive role and is undoubtedly one of the finest defensive prospects in State League at present. He's yet to turn 21 and club interested can contact him at work on 383 2111 or at home on 232 1550.

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Socceroo midfielder Tommy McCulloch is chafing at the bit, raring to get into stride with APLA and thankful to be away from Marconi's "boring" style of football.

"I'm a bit angry with Marconi over the way they delayed my transfer," McCulloch said.

"Marconi was childish over the whole thing and I was getting annoyed, but thankfully that's all behind me." McCulloch joined APLA in a straight swap for midfielder Ian Gray last week.

McCulloch said he wanted to leave Marconi because "after four years with the club I felt I needed a change."

However, he also admitted there was an underlying motive.

"I felt that last year's Marconi was becoming a boring team," he said.

"I really don't believe that we provided value for the fans last season, even though we finished third and made the play-offs."

McCulloch believes Marconi was a far more entertaining side in 1983 under coach Doug Collins, who gave the players a free rein on the field.

"Doug was the best thing that ever happened to Marconi."

"It's a great pity he couldn't have stayed. I think he would have produced the results and provided a great, entertaining team."

"Doug never really constrained us."

"I know that the players enjoyed that '83 season a great deal and I think we played some attractive football."

"Okay, so we didn't do too well, but there was hope for the future."

McCulloch said that under current coach Les Scheinflug, Marconi had adopted a much more rigid, defensive format. "I think that last year's side was boring," he said.

But McCulloch said he was not criticising Scheinflug as a coach.

"I suppose it largely depended on what he had available to work with."

"As national team coach he had a larger pool to choose from and his sides tended to be more adventurous."

Youth team was a classic example because there he had two wingers and the whole side had a different approach."

McCulloch said he only just resumed training a couple of weeks ago, having taken an extended holiday after the Socceroo's world tour.

"It was my first break from the game in nearly three years," he said. "I still find it hard to believe that I went that long without a real rest."

McCulloch said that young Socceroo commitments as well as a trial period with Southampton in England had absorbed nearly all of the Australian "off-season" and it was not until last December that he could toss aside his boots and kick up his heels.

"If anyone had told me in 1982 that I'd be playing for three years without more than a week off here and there, I'd have said I wouldn't make it."

"There were times last season when I felt there was no way I could play on the weekend."

"It wasn't a physical thing. It was a mental approach."

"You just become drained and can't motivate yourself into preparing for the match."

"Once the game starts, you automatically get keyed up, but afterwards it's a big drain."

The fact that his move to APLA means he's the sole national team representative in the side doesn't worry McCulloch.

"I thought we had some pretty good players at Marconi and yet I was the only Socceroo there last year so that thought doesn't worry me," he said.

"And anyway, there are

players at APLA like Arno Bertogna who I reckon are on the fringe of Socceroo selection."

McCulloch was surprised how well his first training session with APLA went.

"I was expecting to be an aching mess," he said.

"But I went through the whole session and felt good afterwards. I'm just looking forward to getting on with the season."



Tom McCulloch, now at APLA

SOCCEROO GRAY IN FROM THE COLD

By CRAIG MacKENZIE

Ian Gray has come in from the cold. And that's great news for Marconi and Australia.

Gray, 21, had been in limbo ever since asking APLA Leichhardt for a transfer late last season before jetting off to Asia and Europe with Frank Arok's Socceroo.

APLA stuck \$25,000 on Gray's head, a figure reduced to \$22,000 on appeal. Although Sydney Croatia offered to fork out the money for Gray's transfer he chose to join Marconi in a swap for midfielder Tommy McCulloch.

"I trained with Marconi last week and there was a little bit of trouble there when Ron Cagnino resigned from the committee but the talk is that that matter can be cleared up. I hope so, because I've got a lot of mates at Marconi and I know and respect Les Scheinflug, having played under him in the national youth team back in 1981," said Gray.

"I used to combine well at Leichhardt with Paul Carter, now at Marconi. I've played with Peter Sharpe for a while and me and Peter Tredinnick are mates, having taken together at Leichhardt for three years before he joined Marconi."

Despite his obvious class, only having his transfer fee reduced by \$3,000 scared away prospective buyers for a couple of months, until Croatia put in its late bid.

"The tribunal set-up is terrible. I can't work out how tribunals arrive at some of the figures they put on players' heads. I was really upset when my fee was set at \$22,000. Really upset. It seems to me that the only way top players can move nowadays is if a swap can be arranged or if one of the few clubs left that still can pay such exorbitant fees comes in for you."

"To be frank, State League soccer has got nothing to do with our set-up in the National League, yet I had to from a NSW federation tribunal and they wanted to know how much I'd been paid by Leichhardt during my five years with the seniors. What's that got to do with anything? That was money the club gave me for my services as a player and as I told the tribunal, I joined Leichhardt as a junior during the amalgamation between Leichhardt and Western Suburbs and I never received a signing-on fee."

"Leichhardt even started talking about expenses it incurred through coaching me and the money I had to pay for drinks at half-time! It's about time that something was done about this tribunal set-up. It's ridiculous."

It sounds that Gray and APLA parted on less than friendly terms.

"No, I've still a got a lot of friends at Leichhardt and I'd like to see the side do well this year. I wish them all the best."

Gray was born in Sydney. His first club was Manly Vale. He played in its under 13 side coached by his father but switched to Western Suburbs and played in the under 14's and 15's. APLA took over the failing Suburbs late in 1978 and in 1980, as a 16 year old, Gray made his NSL debut at Schintler Reserve, against Footscray J.U.S.T. Willie Wallace, now at Penrith, was APLA coach then. "Willie gave me my chance and persevered with me. If he hadn't been there then, there's no way that I'd have played so many games. I remember playing against Brisbane City in Brisbane and I was terrible, really bad, but Willie couldn't take me off because he'd already used up his subs. He just came up to me after the match and said that I'd be playing the following week and to forget all about the game in Brisbane."

Gray's first Socceroo appearance was a substitute against Nottingham Forest in the World Series last year. His first full appearance was against Peking during the

about the game in Brisbane.

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about the game in Brisbane.

Zwbgnycz

Last week we received a circular from the NSL, "Media Information" headed by an inviting line "What about these story ideas."

And there, numbered, were eight suggestions for stories, sent to dozens of soccer writers and editors.

With that, of course, soccer's worries are over: the Media, at last shown The Light, will splash page after page of soccer news and feature in its volumes.

So far only a chronic shortage of ideas has prevented them from giving soccer the space it deserves.

Well we'd like to help, too. Here, gratis, are further story ideas.

SHALL WE TELL THE PRESIDENT? — Sure — but where is he? Ch leaders at Marston United first meet accounts, dirty linen and revolts staff. They find everything except money. Should they tell the president? Maybe. But he's missing, too. How will it all end; will Marston change their name, as usual, and walk away from the wreckage or will they just off their debts in easy instalments over the next 345 years — that's it \$840,000 question.

NEW DEAL FOR FANS — Hopeless Cross have modernised its grand facilities for the season, all in the motto of "The Fan is Always Right Now it is keen to recruit a second, even a third fan. The massive facade at the ground will include flood down rails in the benches, new d clothes for the shops in the kiosk and new gas masks, his and hers, in toilets.



Ian Gray, now at Marconi

world tour. National coach Frank Arok can send the shudders through Socceroo hopefuls sitting alongside him on the bench during a game. Arok gets very tense and is given fits of screaming and gestulating.

"What I like about Frank is

that he admits that he squirms and screams from time to time but that's because he's under a lot of pressure and unlike the players, he can't get out there and release it. Frank gets very hot when we play and that's understandable."

Gray was used at right back by Arok during the world tour, rather than in his customary midfield role. Nevertheless, with two stoppers and a sweeper, Arok wants his fullbacks to get forward and Gray reveals in that role.

"It's a great position. I really is I like to get forward and I find that when I get up there I've often got a lot of space in which to work. Anyway, I've played a fair few games for Leichhardt at right back so it's nothing really new."

When Gray first asked APLA chairman Nick Papilio for a move, Sydney City Hakoh looked his likely destination, but Hakoh balked at the transfer fee. No doubt Arok would have liked his international find to have settled his immediate playing future far sooner than last week but the excitement and enthusiasm in Gray's voice when he talks about his new club surroundings suggest that he'll quickly recapture the touch which first attracted Arok's attention in 1984.

Changing role



LES MURRAY

St George and national coach Frank Arok has mobilised his scouts in both Yugoslavia and Britain in a desperate attempt to find the striker he needs to boost the scoring power of his team.

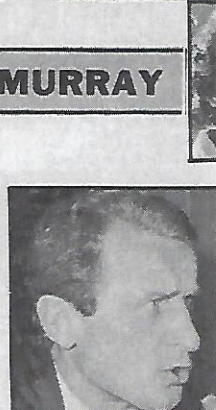
The Saints are still suffering last year's loss of Paul Wilkinson whom they have not yet replaced while the ageing genius, Der Marton, lately has only been used as a second hand substitute.

Arok had made several attempts already to net a top striker on the local front but without success.

He was close to signing Marshall Soper, Rod Brown, Croatia's Yugoslav import Emil Dragicevic (who now has gone to Inter Monaco) and he even put feelers out for APLA's bustling centre forward, Kerry Caban.

With just one visa player on their books (Marton), the Saints would have no problem meeting their import quota restrictions.

Speaking of centre forwards, and the need for them, as Italian champion Juventus went into its recent league match against AC Milan (soon to be seen on SBS-TV's World



Giovanni Trapattoni

(Soccer), Juve coach Giovanni Trapattoni was having an argument with his spearhead, Paolo Rossi.

Rossi, king of goals in the World Cup and prolific scorer in European club matches and international, was a bit peeved that he wasn't scoring regularly in the league.

"Indeed, where the score sheet is concerned, Pabito has been remarkably impotent: in domestic games since those conquering few World Cup days in Spain."

In his first season with Juventus he managed just seven goals in 23 games. In his second season (83-84) his total was 16 out of 30 appearances.

What peevish him is how much better his midfield colleague,

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THE ANDREW DETTRE COLUMN



SAINTS DESIDERIUS REVEALS SECRET — St George's resident though ageing Saint Desiderius will have a limited role during the 1985 season. Club Apostle Franciscus Arokus says the pious saint will not be able to perform for the whole 90 minutes. So at halftime he will give benediction and after the game he will hear confessions. Asked the secret about his long soccer life, Saints Desiderius vaguely said this was due to reindeer milk mixed with cavapici. Whenever reindeer milk was hard to get, he added, something stronger could be substituted.

LAKE SEARCHED FOR BODIES — Lake Burley Griffin is being

searched by Canberra police divers for the bodies of numerous missing Canberra coaches; roughly every 10 months one vanishes, usually after being accused of vile crimes. The latest victims actually demanded money for his services, an incredible act of selfishness which the club committee members would never ever do in their chosen professions.

YOUNG TALENT EMERGES — Will brilliant young Aussie talent Wdzyzyczynski make Frank Arok's national team? Is he as good as Pale, Puskas, Zico, Baumgartner, Kosmina or Slater were at the age of three? The boy, 18 — dazzled fans last week, twice he was observed controlling a difficult ball (bouncing heavily) with only seven touches. He also gave a chested pass in the same game (SAME GAME, how about that) and though the ball ended up in the nearby creek, the family were in ecstasy for minutes. Wdzyzyczynski says his only ambition is to play for his country and he'll decide later at which sport. Meanwhile, relatives from the old country are sending him (Hello, Comet) a few thousand spare vowels.

RULE BRITANNIA — A hard-hitting attack is mounted at those critics who claim that British migrants are not attracted to Australian soccer. Proof exists to the contrary: all the States coaching directors are British and most of the top referees, too, not to mention more than half the players and officials. It's only as spectators and ordinary fans that the British may be in short supply. But, alas, even they cannot be everywhere.

IS HE REALLY? — Bruno Paizano is just as hard a coach as he was as a player. He drives his players to the point of exhaustion and beyond, then back again. Yet his players don't always perform well. After a recent

match he exclaimed: "I don't know why I am coaching." Echoes one of his players: "Is he?"

AUSTRALIANS FOR EXTRA SPICE? — No less than 11 of the 12 teams in the Southern Division of the NSL have a Mediterranean connection: Greeks, Italians, Maltese or assorted nationalities from what is today Yugoslavia. Brisbane Lions' Dutch contingent is the only exception: can they be happy in that company? Would it add to the interest if they also had an Australian club — revolutionary though this idea may seem. If this is not possible: should we nominate a team to enter the bi-annual Balkan Games?

SIMON SIMPLE REMAINS LOYAL — Simon Simple, reserve midfielder of the Crookwood Rangers Under 12s has decided against trying his luck overseas. So here, at long last, is one young Aussie talent who is loyal and trueblue. Will Simon find happiness at home or will he stay in soccer? Simon says he wants to put back into soccer all he's ever got out of it: 72 oranges cut in half, 230 tins of coke and a black eye. "Simon will stay in Australia," says his mum, "although several big British clubs have already written to us." She refused to say what's in those letters. "I don't want to start off a price war," she says bashfully.

THE QUEENSLAND CONCOCTION — Our friends in the sunny, deep north lead the nation in peanut and pineapple growing, sand mining, Abo bashing, horse poisoning and political gerrymandering. Will they also lead in soccer? Can Lions continue as a soccer club or will they turn to merchant banking? Will Ian Brusasco succeed in enlarging the goal areas to match the entire width of the Barrier Reef, to get more goals? More details from Joh, scenes from Flo.

Car crash and the change hit Wade hard!

As if things weren't bad enough, Paul Wade also had a car crash, and he's still feeling the effects of whiplash.

That's why he didn't play against West Adelaide Hellas — at least not until coming on as a substitute for Richard Miranda, who had been given slight concussion by two punches behind the ear.

Juventus coach John Margaritis kept his players at training later than usual. Wade lives at Hallam — a drive of about an hour from Olympic Park — and because he was late for tea, he decided his shower could wait until he got home.

"I turned right off Toorak Road and half way down the hill on Glen Iris Road, a woman was waiting to make a right hand turn, coming towards me. That's just what she did, even though I was only about 10 yards away, and we collided head-on," Wade recalls.

"Luckily no-one was hurt, but my Mazda is a write-off. The engine was in the boot, I reckon. Luckily my car was insured, but hers wasn't."

"I wish now that I'd had my shower at the ground." And so the ill wind that has blown Juventus no good at all this year, extended icy fingers again. Wade was to come in Adelaide in retaliation to a tackle by Miranda, a West Adelaide player gave the big midfielder a solid thump behind the ear. After receiving treatment, he coped another hefty whack, and this time, Miranda was in trouble. He came to the bench and said he had trouble seeing, and didn't know what he was doing. "His ear went black," says Wade, "and it turned out he had slight concussion. Luckily the doctors said on his return to Melbourne that it wasn't any more serious than that."

Juventus's 1-2 loss to West Adelaide in that match brought its record in seven matches this year to: 1 win, 2 draws and 4 losses — a record that was not at all regarded kindly by the Juve fans who had expected more from a team bolstered by Wade, Yakka Banovic and Peter Lewis, whose transfer fees added up to \$38,000! The match against Green Gully was yet to come as this article was written — a match of tremendous importance to Wade since it was from Green Gully that he joined Juventus.

Wade had stints with Slavia and Croydon but it was at Green Gully last season that he really hit the heights, winning the Boral Bricks — "Soccer Action" Player of the Year award and finishing second to Adelaide City's Sergio Melitta in the Australian Soccer Press Association Player of the Year voting. He doesn't say so, but he couldn't be blamed for wishing he was back at Green Gully because at Juventus so far, almost everything has gone wrong.

He's not even happy in the position he's been playing. "My form is not as good as it was at Green Gully," he says, "but the same is true of other players. Last year, I enjoyed being involved and taking charge in the middle of the midfield, but at Juventus, John Margaritis has had me playing wide on the left, where he thought I could do more damage."

Wade was talking about the role he was asked to play before Fabio Incantapulo returned to the side last Sunday.

"Sometimes I felt like I was playing as a left winger, rather than a left midfielder. The way we play, Margaritis wants three midfielders to attack, and one — usually John Dowie — to stay back. Robbie Cullen provides us with width on the right, and because our strikers, Joe Sweeney and Andrew Zinni are close to each other in the middle, I had to go down the left wing, which isn't my kettle of fish. However, Richard Miranda isn't suited there either, so although I wasn't 100 per cent happy, I just had to stay there."

Juventus's dismal early form baffles Wade as much as it baffles everyone at the club. "I can't say we haven't got the players. On paper, we're as good if not better than the strongest in the league," he says.

The Margaritis style

"We're just getting back into the swing of the way John Margaritis likes to play football, and I guess it takes a bit of time. As soon as we win the ball, John wants us to play it quickly through the middle, to rack it up, and then he'll have us defend as well."

"When we go forward, he wants the midfielders to play the ball to the feet of the strikers — preferably to Zinni, because Sweeney's strength is in the air — and he wants them to delay, then get the midfielders up there as well."

Tommy Traynor was sacked after only three matches. "Having only three games doesn't give you much of a chance, does it? But I guess the club is hungry for success and they'll do anything to get it," Wade says.

Peter Lewis is the most expensive full back in Australian soccer history. Juventus bought him from Melbourne Croatia for an incredible \$18,000, whereas Croatia had bought him from Green Gully the previous year for "only" \$14,000, and Green Gully had picked him up from Altona City four years earlier for \$1000! During the Buffalo Gold Cup night series, Lewis played out of position as stopper because Brian Brown was ineligible to play until a visa vacancy was created for him. Lewis then was injured, and returned to the team only two weeks ago.

Brown came back into the team after Kevin Lloyd was transferred to Green Gully. "He adds a bit of power to the back four," says Wade.

"He's got an old head on young shoulders, and he's responding to Margaritis's demand for more creative play from the back, rather than taking the easy way out and knocking it back to the goalkeeper."

"Yakka Banovic, who came to us from Croatia, pulled off some

By LAURIE SCHWAB

magic saves against his former club in the National Cup match and sometimes he's rally worth his weight in gold, but I guess he's got to get used to a new back four and that takes time."

Young full back Frank Geremia probably has been Juventus's most consistent player this year but it is so often the case in teams that boast big-name stars, that the honest toilers like Geremia are sacrificed sooner or later. One hopes it will not be so with Geremia, and so does Wade. "Look, I've been left out of the team, and John Dowie's been substituted, so no one is sure of his place. Everyone will have to fight to stay in, and just because we've got a full squad again, it doesn't mean that Geremia will miss out."

But if there's one thing that's sure in soccer, it is that anything can happen at Juventus. So it has been for 15 years. We await further developments with interest.



Frank Geremia



Peter Lewis

Wade (right) — recovering from whiplash and to fit into a new role at Juventus.

of the striker



Platini • Rummenigge • Marton

and he does so thanks to the spaces created for him by Rummenigge. "It is futile to deceive oneself that Rossi can go back to what he was at Lanerossi Vicenza where he scored heaps of goals. That was seven years ago. Life for centre forwards is getting harder all the time."

"Now goals come easier for players who can come from behind and slot in. Strikers now have an important function, more as points of reference than as goal scorers," said Trapattoni.

Indeed they have, although some players who are distinctly labelled as strikers still manage to score freely. Notably Liverpool's Ian Rush, Verona's Preben Eljjaer and most of all Milan's Mark Hateley.

But, as the new Hateley more than anyone personifies, these are not the centreforwards the soccer world has been used to for over a hundred years.

They are mobile, roving men, covering immense territory with a yen for finding and running into space. Their height and muscular presence only add to their potency.

In our NSL, John Kosmina does a lot of roving — indeed, to pull a dumb centre back away from the middle is his most regular play — and so does Marshall Soper, as do Marton and Doug Brown.

Trouble is, you need some very expert midfielders, with an instinct and ability for goalscoring, to exploit the new-style striker to the full.

"Rummenigge seldom scores or Inter, Giordano very little for Lazio, and only Inter's Altobelli regularly gets among the scorers,

which is where Trapattoni tried to make his point that centre forwards are no longer goal poachers and now have a different role in football."

"While I can understand Rossi's anxiety," said Trapattoni, "he should look at other people in the same role."

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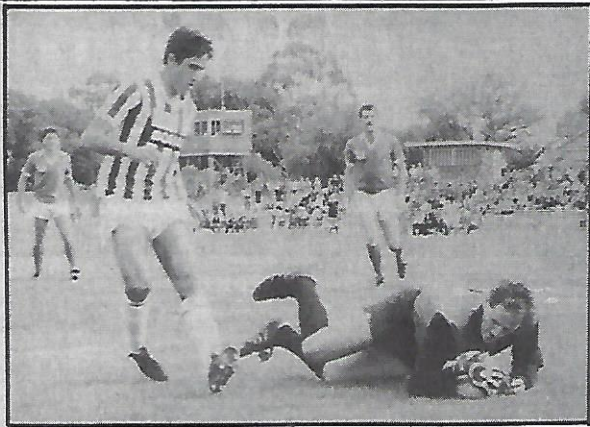


NATIONAL LEAGUE:

Triumph for Hellas, support from
Olympic Airways

THE STATES:

Ladders, scorers, big-match
statistics, pictures and past records



Brisbane City goalkeeper Kim Wishart gathers the ball before Adelaide Juventus' recent signing striker Fortu Costanzo, can pounce. Picture by FRANK HOBBS.

Wishart saves a point

Man of the match:
ALAN REIS
Brisb. City

AC-Juventus 1
Brisb. City 1

Scorers: Costanzo 17th;
Reis 22nd.
Venue: Olympic Sports Field.
Crowd: 1800.
Cautions: Flounders, Northcote (AC), Milovanovic, Reis (BC).
Referee: Jim Rossis 7.

Twice last season these teams were separated by a last-minute goal at Olympic Sports Field, with Brisbane winning the first game 2-1 and Juventus triumphing 2-1 in the return.

History would have repeated itself but for a superb save by Brisbane City goalkeeper Kim Wishart from a Charlie Villani blast in the dying seconds.

Brisbane's physical approach was just what Juventus did not want after its gruelling, back and forth Ampol Cup final just four days before (see page 11).

Even without midfield ace Sergio Mella, Juventus appeared more than capable of winning both points from the blue-shirted visitors, but Brisbane City mounted unexpected resistance, despite its inexperienced midfield.

Sparks flew from the start as Alan Reis made his presence felt with the first shot of the game and he improved from there to be the most damaging striker of the game.

Joe Mullen, who suffered the indignity of being relegated to the reserve bench for the Ampol Cup final, was obviously out to prove coach Edmund Krefl wrong.

Young Mullen did just that, no doubt to the delight of Krefl, but again Mullen ended without a goal to his credit.

That honor fell to second game striker Fortu Costanzo, who scored on his home game debut, after a cross from Mike Donnelly.

Reis equalised after Steve Glockner had capitalised on a faulty Donnelly pass-back to set up Reis for the equaliser.

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Juventus needed a win to gain confidence for a bout with West Adelaide Hellas in another derby on Sunday.

Hellas will have Chris Manou and Steve Papadopoulos back from suspension and coach Neil McGachey also hopes against hope that Gary Price will be fully recovered from his calf injury to be able to take his place in the front line.

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Waverley recently opened new clubrooms.

Talent dying, says Puskas

From page one

So there is not much to look at, when you do look at Puskas — yet some magic oozes out of him, an aura of immortality, a dash of cosmic powers. You'd be only mildly surprised if, in front of your eyes, he began to ascend towards heaven.

Anecdotes, recollections, reflections and quips pour out of him, an avalanche stored up over some 40 years of sporting glamour and travel. Like popes, Puskas has met everybody in soccer who matters and tens of thousands who don't.

People walk up to him almost non-stop, stare at him and say "Remember me?" and often Puskas does. When he doesn't, he is careful not to offend.

Formally and informally he must have been interviewed and quizzed a million times: there is a slightly detectable tone of déjà vu in his replies, an almost mechanical, rehearsed tone.

But no matter how tedious, repetitive or silly the questions may be, Puskas, the great professional, honors them all with an answer. Who is the greatest living soccer player? "Maradona", he replies without hesitation. "He knows everything", but, he adds, he fears for the future of that Argentine superstar who, surrounded by minders, has lost millions in recent years — all without trace.

And the greatest ever in your time, apart from Puskas? He doesn't hesitate, quite clearly he's been asked the same thing before.

"My former team-mate Boszok and two Brazilians, Garrincha and Nilton Santos," he says.

Why did you leave out Pele, someone exclaims. "I left out another 5000, not just Pele," he says. "These three are my tops, my subjective choices. Some people rate Di Stefano as the greatest. Maybe he was. But in soccer the greatest cannot be measured, like in a 100 metres swim."

Even though he is an admirer of Brazilian soccer, Puskas rates the Hungarian team of 1952-54 above the rest from South America — the world champion sides of 1958 and 1970 included.

"Quite simply, there won't be another team like ours was," he says without false modesty. Five or six world class players, all at once. Where do you get them nowadays?

It took him, he says, a "long time" to live down that 2-3 defeat, in the 1954 World Cup final in Bern. How long? "I'll live with that regret for ever," he admits. "We had it in our hands, we threw it away, that's the truth. We played arrogantly and badly after our early 2-0 lead. All the other excuses were rubbish."

Puskas becomes quite vehement when approached about one of the enduring soccer legends — that German defender Liebrich had deliberately injured him in that early round 8-3 match.

"Liebrich didn't kick me, as the reports always said, but stepped on my foot. And it was accidental. If anything, my fault. But I never once blamed Liebrich."

Of his former Honved and Hungarian team-mates, that great wing half, Josef Boszok remains closest to him — even some years after his premature death. They grew up together in suburban Kispest, street urchins of the first order, joined the same club, became world stars. Then, in 1956, they split. Boszok stayed at home Puskas became an exile.

"Boszok was the greatest I've played with. Here was one player who at every moment knew what to do with the ball and how to do it. The greatest passer of the ball of all time, and a charming, warm man."

"Kocsis? He was a good boy and died tragically in Barcelona a few years ago. He was never any problem: he was so sure that we often feared he'd fall asleep in the dressing room."

"Czibor was crazy and still is, in Barcelona. We called him crazy, too. An unpredictable genius on and off the field. True, he was never the closest one to me — but it's part of the folklore which claims that for years we never talked to each other. Not true."

"Buzansky? He was a tough defender — but we had three or four better ones for that post. Still, Buzansky played — because he was from the Dorog Miners Club — and this way, for years, none of us had any free problems."

And Puskas goes on, matches, opponents, team-mates, coaches, officials are remembered, some fondly, some with misgivings. Nothing is sacred, everybody is sacrificed on the altar of the venerable Hungarian gallows humor.

Puskas is just concerned as anybody else about the game's declining popularity, about the fading magic of the round ball. Millions of others, he is at loss to offer an instant remedy.

"I've heard all possible solutions and explanations about youngsters having a car, a video, a stereo and three girlfriends to divert their interest from sport. They could all be true. Perhaps scientists should analyse the reasons."

"All I can see with any certainty is that talent is dying up everywhere, that the individual brilliance, which made soccer in our days so much fun, is almost completely a thing of the past."

"You get an infrequent Maradona. Rummenigge, Platini or someone like them and we all live. Well, around 1950 in Budapest we had some 200 world players from whom the 'Golden Team' was shaped."



"You don't believe me? Hidekoti, possibly the greatest centre forward in the world, together with Di Stefano, was not the first, not even the second choice for Hungary. Manager Sebes wanted the free-scoring Deak but he was badly injured. Zsengeller was getting old. Mike left Italy. Szusza didn't want to play in the middle. So, at 29 Hidekoti was drafted."

"He's strong and always willing to run which neither I nor Kocsis were crazy about. So pretty soon we talked Hidekoti into covering a bigger area — and playing as a deep lying centre forward while Kocsis and I, as inside forwards, stayed up front. Well, that's how the famous system was born. Not on the drawing board, as people imagine and not in Brazil, as others claim."

Puskas not only lived through the darkest, Koestlerian years of Stalinism — but was one of the very few secure, sacred members of the privileged new class. Dozens of stories and anecdotes have survived from those years, about Puskas — during familiarity with the big brothers of the party, the over-joy of Hungary enjoyed a measure of freedom denied to millions of others.

"We were lucky I guess that army minister Mihaly Farkas was a great soccer nut," Puskas recalls. "Millions in Hungary feared him as general Farkas. We knew him as uncle Mihaly."

Since his retirement as a player, Puskas has spent some 15 or more years outside Spain coaching Canada, USA, Chile, Greece twice, Egypt. Not once any of the truly great clubs of the world. Would he like to have a chance with his beloved Real Madrid?

"Of course," he says. "But at Real you don't volunteer, they call you in. And they haven't called me for maybe never will. That would be the ultimate for me: Back at Real Madrid. But there are dozens of top coaches in the queue. And coaching in Spain carries so much infamy, so much backstabbing that I don't know if I could stand it."

"I've just finished a four-year contract in Port Said, Egypt — and I live in Madrid again, until something turns up. Luckily, I can afford to take time off, travel a bit, meet old friends. But an offer may come tomorrow and then I'm off again. In recent years I've travelled so much that my suitcase can find its way around airports without me."

Bullen clinic

Victorian Director of Coaching Tim White will hold a coaching clinic at the Bullen Veneto Social Club, Bullen Road, Bullen starting at 7pm tonight (Wednesday).

All coaches and players are invited.

Hellas in gear Opasinis hurt

Makedonia 0
SM Hellas 1

Scorer: Egan 74th
Venue: Connor Reserve
Referee: Stuart Mallings 2.
Cautions: Yzendoorn (SMH), Petrov (PM)

As expected, the talk about bringing Zarko Odzakovic back into the team started immediately after Makedonia's first defeat of the season.

But unbeknown to the supporters, Odzakovic had practically concluded his transfer to join Sydney Croatia before playing in Makedonia's 5-3 youth league win over Hellas.

"I will go on working with the squad I've got despite injuries to Steve Smith and Con Opasinis," said coach Bill Murray.

"Smith pulled out of this game on Saturday but is a good chance to play in our next game but the injury to Con looks bad and I wouldn't be surprised if he misses at least two weeks."

The loss of Opasinis, who had marked Charlie Egan tightly in the first half, came as a result of a knock and he saw only three minutes of the second half before hobbling off to be replaced by George Petrov.

That is a fair summation of the match as Makedonia looked the better side going forward, getting plenty of support from midfield with Zoran Ilkic again prominent in the opening 45 minutes.

But it was a different story after the break and Hellas could have won by a bigger margin but for three brilliant saves from young Philip Traianidis and two efforts which hit the framework.

Willie Wallace sent off!

Canberra 2
Penrith 2

Goals: Hebb o.g. 40th, Bryant p.n. 68th (C), Wetherspoon 41st, Easthorpe 90th.
Venue: Jamison Oval.
Crowd: 1460.
Referee: V. Celestino 4.

Amid amazing scenes that saw four minutes of injury time played, Penrith snatched a 91st minute equaliser to share the spoils with Canberra.

In that incredible final four minutes, referee Vince Celestino also ordered Penrith's coach Willie Wallace, and the team's physiotherapist off the field.

It was end-to-end stuff but until the 40th minute — and two amazing goals — neither keeper was really tested.

Canberra defender Jim Harkins sent in a free kick, defender Peter Burke headed it on as did midfielder Terry Byrne — the man everyone then credited with the goal. But afterwards the goal was listed as an own goal by Penrith central defender Robert Hebb who in fact deflected Byrne's header past his own goalkeeper.

Amazingly, for it seemed harmless enough, referee Celestino awarded a penalty after big defender Dave McIntosh had tackled Tommy English. Up came midfielder Steve Bryant to find the net.

Just two minutes from time, English burst past the defence only to see his shot beat Gibson but rap the upright.

Then came the 91st minute equaliser when striker Randall Easthorpe's shot found the net.

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Peter Desira

I believe that was the turning point of the match as Petrov was largely ineffective in midfield while Graham Heys who was moved into the fullback position could not keep as tight a hold on Egan.

Egan seized the extra room to cause most of the damage for Hellas in the second half.

"I was disappointed to lose. We had been closing down well in the first half and thought we did okay but in the second half they were on top and probably deserved the win," Murray conceded.

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Man of the match:
PHILIP TRAIANIDIS
(Makedonia)

Traianidis was called into the side in place of Richard Wilson who was omitted for disciplinary reasons.

Traianidis closed down well to stop a shot from Doug Brown in the 48th minute and failed Carl Halford later.

"Considering it was his first game in the NSL, he didn't show any nerves and pulled off a couple of really good saves. The kid did well," Halford said after the game.

The keeper was not at fault in the goal that settled the game.

McDowell made room to get a pass from Brown down the right, made his way to the byline and cut the ball back out of the keeper's reach and straight onto the head of Charlie Egan who made no mistake at the far post.

The victory proved that Hellas is back in top gear and barring injuries I really believe they are going to take some stopping now that all the contract hassles have been sorted out.

That honor fell to second game striker Fortu Costanzo, who scored on his home game debut, after a cross from Mike Donnelly.

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Man of the match:
STEVE BRYANT
(Canberra)

— and the amazing final four minutes.

Off went Wallace — and his physiotherapist — at the insistence of Celestino.

Overseas

● Honduran Roberto Figueroa is the 1984 Central American Footballer of the Year. Jorge Gonzalez (El Salvador) came second.

● Oceania Confederation president Charlie Dempsey has been appointed to FIFA's World Youth Championship Committee.

● The New Zealand Football Association has decided not to take further action over assistant national coach Doug Moore's one year suspension from international football imposed after the Coca-Cola Cup qualifying series in Sydney.

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ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS 2 (Villani 49th), Maxwell 74th penalty), **WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 0** at Hindmarsh Stadium. Referee: Mike Browning 6. Cautions: Donnelly, Costanzo (Juv); Brown, Konstantopoulos (Hellas). Sent off: Papadopoulos, Manou (Hellas).

ADELAIDE CITY JUVENTUS: McNally 8; Donnelly 7, Caceres 8, Konstantopoulos 6, Papadopoulos 6. Coach: Neil McGachey.

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS: Sprout 8, McGregor 8, Scott 7, Honeyman 8.

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MIDFIELDERS: Tom Purcell, Gerry Reilly, Gus Alfonso, Joe Picciano, Alan Bennett.
FORWARDS: Toni Latif, Ayham Patsman, Charlie Spiteri, Tom Robertson.

BOX HILL
GOALKEEPERS: John McKinlay, Robert Harrison.
DEFENDERS: David Brooks, Zdravko Basic, Craig Davidson, Gary McPhee, Alan Rodhouse.
MIDFIELDERS: Chris Taylor, Andy Hughes, Darryn White, Pedro Ramon, Rafael Underwood.
FORWARDS: Andy Humble, Dave Azzopardi, Peter Verechia, Don Lawler.
TRANSFER LISTED: Dean Hennessy, Keith Valentine, Robbie McLachlan.
TRYING TO SIGN: Steve Irvine, Andy McMillan.

CROYDON CITY
GOALKEEPERS: Billy Whitehead.
DEFENDERS: Mark Brown, Jim O'Reilly, Gary Bates, Dave Singleton, Jim Tansey.
MIDFIELDERS: Matt McDonald, Kenny Taylor, Tom Brewerton, Alan Kerr, Alex Livingstone.
FORWARDS: Peter Orlerton, Graham French, Dave Brogan.
TRANSFER LISTED: Steve Irvine, Dave Griffith, Ian Laughnane.
Edie Ormond, Mick Riley.
TRYING TO SIGN: Steve Beech, Mick Edwards.

FAWKNER
GOALKEEPERS: Peter Terzini, Corrado Nobile.
DEFENDERS: Ralph Petrelicci, Cesare Fattore, Frank Macleod, Reno Lia, Michael Giacomi, Gary Hobson.
MIDFIELDERS: Fabio Angelo, Colin Quigley, Peter Boyle, Paul Chivelli.
FORWARDS: Bruno Cozzella, Joe Palinkas, Fabio Mancinelli, Frank Sabbatino, Savas Saglam, Andrew Heap.
TRYING TO SIGN: Mark Wilson.

FRANKSTON PINES
GOALKEEPERS: Lou Ivanoff.
DEFENDERS: Peter Thurlow, Steve Lawson, John Cullen, Dave Ferris, Jimmy Wilson.
MIDFIELDERS: Paul Cooke, Jimmy Ross, Ray Thomas, Craig Millar, Rob Nelson.
FORWARDS: Alistair Dick, Richie Armstrong, John Cumming, Darren Rust.
TRANSFER LISTED: Steve Beech, Danny Davidson.
TRYING TO SIGN: Dennis Bolland or Rick Janssen, Stan Webster, Ian Lougthane.

KNOX CITY
GOALKEEPERS: Robert Brian, Stuart McKurk.
DEFENDERS: Michael Stoffels, Mike Bissinger, Tim Tunstall, Adam Byrne.
MIDFIELDERS: Martin Wild, Dave Stock, Lucio Sais, Guy Bakker, Dave Roddis, Tom Keenan.
FORWARDS: Norrie Pate, Milan Kojic, Colin Hawthorne.
TRANSFER LISTED: Terry Masters.

MORWELL FALCONS
GOALKEEPERS: Romeo Prezioso, Alex Escort.
DEFENDERS: Harry Bingham, Emil Bruns, Graham Tutill, Domenic Palermo, Jimmy Train.
MIDFIELDERS: Jack van Baar, Tony van Baar, Steve Moore, Jim Maclean, John O'Callaghan, Gary Cassar.
FORWARDS: Russell Athershy, Ian Stirton.
TRANSFER LISTED: Stan Webster, Chris Kent.
TRYING TO SIGN: Dennis Bolland.

NORTHCOTE
GOALKEEPERS: John Gnanopoulos, Arthur Orfanakos.
DEFENDERS: Jim Stiliadis, George Kouremenos, Arthur Patiniotis, Gary Cutler, Mark Wilson (subject to negotiation), John Greany (expected to return from Scotland this week), George Bozakis.
MIDFIELDERS: Juan Toro, Chris Bekiaris, Alex Piliplip, Jim Constantinou.
FORWARDS: Tom Patsakos, Con Dionisopoulos, Peter Constantinou, Pat Moustidis, Arthur Panagopoulos, Mike Micevski (subject to negotiation).
TRANSFER LISTED: Chris Ketsakidis, George Mihos, Sammy Wright.
TRYING TO SIGN: Bobby McGuinness.

POLONIA
GOALKEEPERS: Leszek Dzielakowski, Mike Fryser.
DEFENDERS: Rick Upiarski, Andrew Czapiak, Joe Vonje, Kevin Innes, Mirek Smolarek, Clavay, Stefan Mila (expected to return from Poland within a fortnight).
MIDFIELDERS: Darko Kolaric, Dave Gibson, Peter Czapiak, Greg Czapiak, Leszek Gregorczuk.
FORWARDS: Janusz Przybyla, Greg Warszawski, Billy Auld.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA
GOALKEEPERS: Stuart Lee, Rick James.
DEFENDERS: Fred McKee, Graham Haupt, Hans Meyer, Ron Verniers, Paul Corke, Colin Wernys.
MIDFIELDERS: Des Shannon, Kees Storm, Barry Burton, Mark Bakker.
FORWARDS: John Nyholt, Nick van Egmond, Fred Lange, Fred Hoogland, Kevin Adams.
TRANSFER LISTED: Kevin Adams.
Sisaye Kabele, Lemma Kibret and Ermas Wondimu will join the first team squad from May 1, when their suspensions by FIFA are lifted.

SPRINGVALE CITY
GOALKEEPERS: Gary Clayton, Peter Mur.
DEFENDERS: Dave Luca, Bobby Malt, John Luyten, Tom Fitzpatrick, Keith Humble, Brian Cairnduff.
MIDFIELDERS: Ged Bannon, Gordon Bentley, Hugh Campbell, Ian Greener, Joe D'Amico.
FORWARDS: Eddie Bell, John van Dintoren, Jimmy Nelson, Neil Garvey, Peter Kara.
TRYING TO SIGN: Keith Adams.

ST ALBANS DINAMO
GOALKEEPERS: Mat Grigic, Darko Pokas.
DEFENDERS: Eddie Kuzman, George Radman, Danny Ramiljak, Mate Bozic, Steve Grigic, Gordon Pozar.
MIDFIELDERS: Danny Dedic, Ned Batonic, Zdenko Brkijacic, Vinko Pavlovic, Josko Loncar, Svetko Rastovic.
FORWARDS: John Bruno (subject to availability), Dennis Morovic, Branko Culina.
TRANSFER LISTED: Rade Nobilo.
TRYING TO SIGN: Darko Kuna, Zlatko Lericic.

THOMASTOWN
GOALKEEPERS: Mauro Raponi, Sammy Di Masi.
DEFENDERS: Tony Cosentino, Danny Acsesi, Andy Smale, Paul Di (to negotiation), Brendan Latic, George Watters (subject to negotiation), Frank Dallas (subject to negotiation).
FORWARDS: Fred Beller, Frank Fragale (subject to negotiation), Brian Flaherty, Vittorio Salvatore.

WESTERN SUBURBS
GOALKEEPERS: Jimmy Hatzilazarou, Rocky Tachiris, Nick Apostolidis.
DEFENDERS: Billy Hamill, Andy Esposito, Frank Mussel, George Leung, Hugh Howe.
MIDFIELDERS: Steve Kakantonis, George Beattie, Steve Dimovski, Nick Meletis.
FORWARDS: Jed Stenson, Billy Bouzas, Keiron Coyle, Domenic Diliberto, John Condlis.

CUP OF SCARS!

But the victory was achieved at a high price. Juventus lost 1984 NSL Player of the Year, Sergio Melita after 20 minutes when he suffered a knee injury which will sideline him for from four to six weeks.

S.A. Ampol Cup Final with ALLAN CRISP

Meat's injury resulted from a regular tackle, but other players were scarred, battered and bruised by illegal punches, headbutts and kicks. And not all the wounds were inflicted by opponents as some

kicks and punches were flung by spectators who ran on to the pitch!

When the fiery final ended, referee Mike Browning had sent off Hellas striker Steve Papadopoulos and had yellow-carded Tim Brown and Chris Manou of Hellas and Mike Donnelly and Fortu Costanzo from Juventus.

Later, as Browning was being escorted through the players' race by police, he sent off Manou for alleged abusive language.

Earlier there was another unpleasant incident when an enraged spectator leapt the outer fence and punched linesman John Papanicolas on the back of his head.

The same linesman was later struck in an eye by a stone.

The first "round" ended in a St. Albans Dinamo knock-out.

after 20 minutes when the Hellas striker was rendered unconscious for three minutes by a head-butt.

There was further trouble immediately after the game resumed when Konstantopoulos clashed with Bugsy Nyskohus (who was not the head-butt expert) and within seconds Juventus full-back Mike Donnelly clashed with Konstantopoulos.

The sight of Konstantopoulos lying motionless a second time within three minutes was too much for about eight fans who ran on to the pitch to remonstrate, punch and kick.

When the dust had settled after a two-minute delay, the only official action taken was a yellow card for Donnelly.

Referee Browning should not be blamed for his inability to see every incident and while his linesmen battled bravely with the invading spectators and to prevent other fights between players — their attention was diverted from the reportable offences on the field.

When the football resumed, Juventus clinched the final with a brilliant free kick from 30 metres by Charlie Villani and a well-taken penalty by Steve Maxwell.

Those same two players were the scorers when Juventus eliminated Campbelltown City in a semi-final.

FALCONS STILL FIGHTING

Morwell Falcons will have Croydon, Fawkner, Frankston Pines and Polonia snapping at their heels as they try to retain the Victorian State League championship they first won last year.

Falcons were superb in the Buffalo Gold Cup and there's really no reason to believe that they can't win successive titles. Perhaps the most important factor against Falcons this year is the club's reluctance to accept entry to the NSL which comes with winning the championship.

It means that Falcons players, most of whom would dearly love to take a crack at National League soccer, have had to lower their sights.

Croydon already is taking, in very optimistic terms about its title chances. And while there's not an abundance of depth in player-coach Peter Orlerton's squad, there's a class to burn. Croydon will be right up there.

Polonia, especially if Stefan Mila returns from Poland shortly as expected, can mount a serious championship challenge as it did last year while Fawkner looms as another outstanding contender. So do Pines.

Springvale v. Knox
Ross Reserve, Saturday, 3 pm.

Springvale should start its first State League campaign with a win against a Knox squad which looks like struggling this season. Knox coach Duncan Smith says that he'll play only in case of emergency and while I'm not suggesting that Knox should hit the panic button already, I've got no doubts that Smith would be a welcome addition to the Knox midfield.

Likewise, Ian Greener is a must in the Springvale line-up for mine. Greener is reticent about playing, just like Eric Lesbirel was at Knox last season. But there's no substitute for quality and with Greener in the field alongside Ged Bannon and Gordon Bentley, Springvale looks far stronger in this department than the young Knox outfit.

shrug off injury in time. He was hurt against Langwarrin in the Dockerty Cup last week-end.

Albion, traditionally a tough nut to crack at home, has bite in midfield with Gerry Reilly and Tom Purcell. There's plenty of playmaking ability there too in the shape of Joe Picciano, the former Footscray JUST and Marconi star. And according to a couple of Albion players, young Gus Alfonso has come on a treat this season, so Wilhelmina's defence might find itself with its hands full if Albion wins a lot of the ball in the middle of the park.

But Wilhelmina's defence looks fairly solid with Graham Haupt as sweeper and the vastly underrated Hans Meyer as stopper. Bud Fred Murray and Ron Verniers will be the fullbacks.

Micky D'Sylva is recovering from injury and that's a big blow to Albion for D'Sylva's partnership in defence with experienced Stuart Gilmour was the cornerstone of many of Albion's fine displays in 1984.

Morwell v. W. Suburbs
N. Crigien Reserve, Sunday, 3 pm.

Falcons were trying to sign Dennis Bolland as he went to press but even without his formidable presence in goal, the 1984 champions should beat Western Suburbs here.

Russell Athershy is on the hunt for goals and Ian Stirton already is a proven State League scorer. That's going to give Suburbs plenty to think about at a time when they are looking for a goal.

From all reports, Suburbs' Northern Irish import, midfielder, George Beattie, is a fine player. He'll have to be to contend with classy Falcons' performers Jim Maclean, the 1984 Victorian Rothmans Medal winner, and Stevie Moore, the outstanding goalscoring midfielder for the past two seasons in State League.

Then there's little Effie Cassar to worry about. He'll probably square up to Billy Hamill and Cassar's ability to get in behind opposing defences will constantly be a threat to Suburbs.

Morovic will be partnered by Branko Culina in attack and it's likely that Box Hill coach Keith Webster will use Zdravko Basic as sweeper, McMillan as stopper and Dave Brooks and Alan Rodhouse as fullbacks. Webster is enthusiastic about his team's fortunes this season.

"I think we'll do very well. We started the Buffalo Gold Cup with hardly any training behind us and minus seven players from last year but the way things are starting to take shape, I'm confident that we'll be as good as any side in the league. It's just a matter of getting the blend right," said Webster.

"I expect to finish in the top four to tell you the truth but football's a week-to-week proposition and I'll just be happy to win this first league game."

Peter Verechia plays as stopper in last week's Dockerty Cup loss to Yallourn but if McMillan joins then Verechia probably will return to his customary front running role.

Dinamo certainly can't be taken for granted. There's enough skill in the side and strength in the form of stopper George Radman and midfielder Zdenko Brkijacic, to make sure that the Hillmen have to fight every inch of the way for a result here.

Even so, I'm tipping a narrow win to Box Hill.

Fawkner v. F'eton Pines
Smith Reserve, Sunday, 3 pm.

Clearly, this will be one of the clashes of the round. Both sides boast ferocious competitors and can play too but with new signing Colin Quigley in midfield alongside ageless Peter Boyle, my money's on Fawkner.

It will be a new look Fawkner we see this season. With striker Ian Luffield off to the US and intended replacement Andrew Heap requiring an ankle operation, we won't see Fawkner concentrating on high balls into the opposition area to the extent it did last year.

Fawkner probably will look to Bruno Cozzella's pace and opportunism as its main weapon. And if Pines as well as Joe Palinkas's tremendous running and dribbling skills.

A feature of Colin Quigley's play is his outstanding disposition. He's got caught too far forward, Quigley is quite capable of playing the ball over the top for Cozzella to break clear.

Polonia impressed in patches during the Buffalo Gold Cup and no doubt will go into this game as favorite. It should win, provided Peter Czapiak, Leszek Gregorczuk and Dave Gibson call the shots in midfield. And Przybyla is fit to play.

But Northcote's a fair side and if the club signs another four players as planned, don't be surprised to see Northcote doing well this year.

Croydon v. Thomastown
Croydon Park, Sunday, 3 pm.

Croydon, fresh from success in the Buffalo League Cup, should start its quest for the championship by beating Thomastown.

Now that I've committed myself, let's say some nice things about Thomastown, the new State League side coached by former Albion City and Juventus supremo Joe Wilson.

Thomastown will do well this year. I'm sure of it. Fred Beller and Frank Fragale up front, along with Brian Flaherty's experience, should worry more opposing defences while the Danny Acsesi — Andy Smale central defensive combination won't give much away.

Brendan Latic's powerful running from midfield will be the springboard of many Thomastown forays while Brian Coyle (suspended for this match), Frank Dallas and Nino Di Martino all are fine players and anyone underestimating the Thomastown midfield, which also boasts experienced George Watters, will come unstuck.

But Croydon won't take Thomastown for granted despite its 24 Buffalo League Cup semi-final win over Wilson's men.

Take a look at Croydon's line-up. It oozes class. With player-coach Peter Orlerton, Dave Brogan (one was told me that Brogan has piles of flair) and Graham French up front, Croydon is second to none in the striking department.

Not every bit as solid in midfield, even without injured Tom Brewerton.

And at the back, Jim O'Reilly, Jim Tansey, Dave Singleton and Mark Brown form an imposing barrier in front of goalkeeper Bill Whiteside, who had a great season last year with Falcons and is one of the best goalkeepers in State League.

It all points to a Croydon win. But Thomastown needn't worry. Most sides will come unstuck at Croydon Park in 1985.

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

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RINGWOOD DOCKERTY CUP DETAILS

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA 3 (Nyholt 15th, Stewart 30th, van Egmond 60th) **LANGWARRIN 0** at Croydon Park.

RINGWOOD WILHELMINA Lee 7 — Murray 6, Haupt 6, Meyer 7, Vermeers 8 — Shannon 7, Storm 6 (inj. M. Baker 75th), Burton 7 — van Egmond 6, Nyholt (sent off 20th), Stewart 7.

LANGWARRIN Price 8 — McKinlay 7, Benton 6, Smith 8, Isles 7 — Cantallier 6, Cassidy 5, Gordon 5, Geddes 5 (Morris 70th) — Cairns 5 (Sully 70th), Kerr 7.

CROYDON 3 (Taylor 30th, Livingston 42nd, O'Reilly 68th) **BULLEIN 1** (Curulli 18th) at Croydon Park.

CROYDON Whiteside 7 — Brown 7, O'Reilly 7, Singleton 7, Tansey 8 — McDonald 7, Taylor 7, Kerr 7, Livingston 7 — Ollerton 7, French 7.

BULLEIN Pilon 8 — Cassel 6, Curulli 8, Dimitrio 6, Stocco 6 — Sabadini 7, P. Curcio 6 (Priestley 43rd), Bazzani 7, Ruzza 6 — Bonetto 7, Amato 6.

DOVETON 1 (Priestley 83rd) **SUNBURY UNITED 0** at Ross Reserve.

DOVETON Graham 7 — Spink 5, Gadsby 6, Lowe 6, Wainwright 5 — Kaiser 5, Buchanan 6, Sutherland 6 — Priestley 5, D. Nelson 8, Killey 6.

SUNBURY UNITED Paton 7 — Skinner 6, D. Beranic 7, Kremers 6, P. Beranic 6 — Twine 7, Green 6, Campbell 7, Traikovski 8 (Blackley 83rd) — Magnano 6, Catesion 6.

SPRINGVALE CITY 2 (Nelson 55th, Greener 98th) **ALTONA GATE VARDAR 1** (o.g. Luyten 15th) after extra time at Ross Reserve.

SPRINGVALE CITY Clayton 6 — D. Luca 8, Luyten 5, Mait 6, Pirapet 6 — K. Humble 8, G. Bannion 4, D. Amico 6 — van Dinteren 6, Nelson 3, Bell 6 (Green 6).

ALTONA GATE VARDAR Laok 8 — Petrevski 6, J. Dervisovski 8, C. Talevski 6, L. Talevski 5 — Zdravcevi 6, Gelevski 7, Z. Dervisovski 7 (Georgievski 40th), Damjanovski 6 — Nedelkovski 8, Ristovski 5.

NORTH DANDENONG 4 (Mackie 2, McDonald, Olliphant, LECO HOLDINGS 0) at Monterey Reserve.

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MELBOURNE Barbas 6, Wild 7, Thomas 7, Bird 8, D. Drincovsky 6, P. Bannan 6, Nightingall 6 (Tzambas 58th), Edmondson 6, Roberts 6, Ward 6 (De Bono 80th), Evers 6.

GEELONG Howe 8, Road 6, McCaffrey 7, Prior 6 (Ogilvie 70th), Smyth 7, Gramsbergen 6, Munro 8, McCuskey 7, N. Plumber 6, Tuck 8, C. Plumber 6.

NORTHCOOTE 8 (P. Costantinos 3, Patsakos 2, Filippidis 1, Diantopoulos 8, Saliaris 8) **FORTUNA 1** (De Haaf 1st) at John Cain Reserve.

NORTHCOOTE Gnanopoulos 8 — Siliadis 7, Toro 8, Koremoros 7, Patinotro 7 — Bakari 8, Filippidis 6, Mousidis 7 — Dionisopoulos 7 (Panagoulis 80th), Patsakos 8, P. Costantinos 9.

FORTUNA Monastel 5 — Gallagher 7, G. Orrell 7, van Bler 8, R. Te Wierik 8 — Bailey 6 (Kyriakopoulos), M. Orrell 7, Thompson 8, Gerosa 5 (E. Te Wierik) — De Haaf 7, Hinde 5.

CORIO 2 (Carmichael 2nd, G. Van Der Chys 70th, THOMASTOWN 1) (Lakic 12th) at Partridge Reserve.

CORIO Slack 6 — Brenneiser 7, Campbell 7, Reardon 8, Malecic 9 — Derubers 7, G. Van Der Chys 7, R. Van Der Chys 7, Early 8 — Carmichael 8, Opperman 7.

THOMASTOWN Raponi 7 — D. Berandino 6, Carfora 15 (Francisch 7), Costantino 8, Sma 8 — Comar 7, D. Marini 8, C. Foyche 6 (sent off 80th), Salvatore 6 (70th Flyer) — Lakic 7, Boller 6.

POLONIA 3 (Warszawski 80th, 85th, Gregorczuk 97th) **BROADMEADOWS 2** (Vizzini 5th, Watson 30th) after extra time at Partridge Reserve.

POLONIA Dziekalski 6 — Upianski 7, Vunje 6 (linas from 56), Avic, Szpanik 7, P. Casnik 7, D. Gibson 8, G. Czapnik 7, Warszawski 8 — Gregorczuk 7, Kaloric 7.

BROADMEADOWS McRae 6 — Vizzini 8 (56 Mizi 6), Ciantar 7, Donaldson 6, Higham 7 — Watson 6, Daniels 7, Hofnisk 7 (91, Hibbit 7, Stiller 7, Shero 7).

ST ALBANS DINAMO 4 (Culina 1st & 71st, MOROVIC 5th & 78th) **MORNINGTON 1** (Runje 40th) at Smith Reserve.

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Van Der Chys wins it for Corio, scares for Fawknar, Polonia

Polonia star, whose shot at goal similarly was deflected past.

Peter Boyle — big on talent, short on goal — set up Fawknar's second goal with a shrewd through pass which Cozella ran onto before shooting past goalkeeper Fahri Yilmaz who had come towards him.

Fawknar's grip on the game was loosened five minutes after half time when referee Alan Fearn — who handled the game very well indeed — awarded a penalty against Palinkas. Lutgens took the kick and scored.

At 21, Holland Park's confidence returned, and within minutes of the goal, Ilhan almost equalised with a low drive which Terzini just managed to save.

Terzini saved Fawknar again when he held a shot from Lutgens after Gonullu and Mirik had worked the ball forward, and shortly afterwards, Gonullu shot across goal.

Fawknar attacked only spasmodically now. A square pass from Cozella was knocked down by Fabio Angele to Palinkas for a shot that whistled inches wide in the 69th minute, and four minutes later Palinkas actually put the ball into the net, only to have it disallowed over offside.

Be that as it may, Palinkas had the taste of blood now, and he came desperately close with another great shot which whistled past the post.

But it was Holland Park that was doing most of the attacking. Gonullu (luck just would not smile on him) belted a fine shot narrowly over the bar.

Colaiologu had a series of chances — including that penalty in the shootout — but he missed them all. In the 80th minute the ball fell kindly for him in the middle, dead in front, but he miskicked badly, sending the ball spinning off his foot.

Having missed all its chances, Holland Park was given a bit of help from Giacomi who brought down Gonullu inside the

Cosmos kicked out of 'non existent league'

The North American Soccer League expelled the New York Cosmos last week for failing to post the required letter of credit for the 1985 season — and the action further reduced the league's prospects for survival.

The NASL is now down to two teams, Toronto and Minnesota, and league officials have said there will be no competition this summer unless at least six franchises are operating. With the uncertainty, the league has been unable to draw up fixtures for their season, which they had hoped would begin in June.

The Cosmos withdrew last month from the winter Major Indoor Soccer League, where low attendance

at their home games had caused them substantial losses. That move increased speculation that the team, once the flagship of soccer in the U.S., would not participate in the NASL.

League officials said the team was expelled because the Cosmos failed to deposit \$150,000 that would be used to cover debts if the team folded once the season began.

"The NASL constitution specifically states that all members must commit to next season by posting a letter of credit," Clive Toye, the league's interim president, said in a statement. "It is the one crucial measure of a club's intent. The Cosmos' failure to

post their letter of credit has been a handicap in the league's efforts to attract new member clubs."

Peppe Pinton, the managing director of the Cosmos, said he found the league's action "strange."

"I've always been ready to post the money when the league has a schedule," he said. "I have no desire to see the NASL close. I find it difficult to believe a non-existent league can tell the Cosmos we are not part of it."

Pinto said the club would stage exhibition games against teams from other countries at Giants Stadium.

Unless the league can come up with some new

franchises soon, Toye is expected to announce that the league will take at least this season off from competition. He refused to comment on that question except to say that an announcement about the league's future would be "forthcoming."

After the Cosmos officials left, executives from the two active franchises voted to expel the team.

When they dropped out of the indoor league, Cosmos officials cited losses of at least \$1.5 million as the reason. The team was averaging about 4000 fans for each home game in Byrne Meadowlands arena on route to an 11-22 record and last place in its division.

Athersych aims to get greedy!

"I'm going to be a lot more greedy this year. I'm going after the goals — definitely!"

And as sure as night follows day (where have I heard that before?) that means Morwell Falcons striker Russell Athersych is casting an envious eye upon top scorer honors in the 1985 Victorian State League.

Move over Janusz Przybyla (you too, Dave Azopardi) for here comes a man with a mission, with ability, a classy pedigree and with enough good players around him to set the State League alight.

Born in Sheffield in England, within earshot of the roars from Hillsborough, Sheffield Wednesday's home ground, Athersych was signed as an apprentice by Chesterfield straight from school. Three years later he signed as a professional with Chesterfield, making 24 first team appearances in two seasons.

"I was playing as a target man in the reserves but I played off a target man in the first team. Things were going okay until the club got into big financial trouble."

"There was a big bust-up when it became known that the club was bankrupt. Mike Waterson, a snooker promoter, took over as chairman and

changed everything — players, the manager, the committee. I'd agreed with Barlow on a new contract but when John Duncan took over as manager he dumped me. Duncan told me that even though he'd never seen me play, he wasn't interested."

Athersych played with Goolle Town in the Northern Premier League for six games then Jimmy Dunne phoned to say that he (Dunne) was going to Australia to coach Falcons and would like to sign Athersych. The young striker agreed terms with Falcons and arrived in Australia on October 26, 1983.

His first full season in Australia saw Falcons win the State League championship for the first time in its history and the State League Cup to boot. Surely, it was a great year for Athersych.

"I had a shocker. Let's face it, I only scored about five goals all year and when you're up front you're there to score goals. That's what it's all about."

He's a hard man to keep happy. I saw him play four games last year and he impressed me each time.

"Up here in Morwell, people who go to your games only see the ball going into the back of the net and know who scored. I mean, two or three weeks after the event, who remembers the build up? Let's face it, if you're brought out here to

score goals and you only score about five, then you've failed.

"But that's going to change. I'm confident it will. Okay, if someone's in a better position you've got to give them the ball but there have been times when I could have had a go myself and didn't. That won't be the case this year."

Athersych echoes the sentiments of all the Morwell players when he talks about the club's refusal to accept an invitation to enter the 1985 NSL. But from the club's point of view, he understands its reluctance.

So Athersych and his team mates have had to narrow their aims. They're trying to win the State League championship for the second successive year and perhaps add the Dockerty Cup to their lists of credits (which would be another first for the club).

"As long as the lads don't worry about not being in the NSL or worry about winning the league and again not going into the NSL, then we can have a good year again."

"We've only lost Billy Whiteside, Gerry Clarke and John Higham from last year and we've signed Graham Tutill and look like signing Mick McGorian."

Tutill should cover the loss of Clarke as sweeper and our stopper. Emil Bruns is playing out of his skin at the moment."

But isn't there a problem at



Morwell's star striker Russell Athersych holds off a Knox City opponent

Morwell when Steve Moore and Jim Maclean both play in central midfield roles? Sure, they're gifted players, but do they compliment each other?

"Personally, I prefer Stevie playing in midfield rather than sweeper like he has been doing recently. Anyway, he's a damn good player and he can play anywhere but he scored a lot of goals for us last year as a mid-fielder and that was very important to the success we had."

"I think Jimmy (MacLean) sat back last year and let Stevie get forward a lot and we're going to need Stevie scoring, as long as Graham (Tutill) can keep things steady at the back the way Stevie did throughout the Buffalo Gold Cup. If me, Stevie and Ian Straton are on target then we'll score a barrowload. Of course,

it hardly ever works out that way, so you need as many lads as possible capable of getting among the goals."

Romeo Prezioso played in goals during the Buffalo Gold Cup. He did well but can the youngster maintain his form throughout the rigors of the league campaign?

Athersych is in the last year of a two-year contract with Falcons. There's no maximum transfer fee clause in his contract but there's a clause which stipulates that once his contract expires, he must be sent back home to England along with his wife. Once in England, he'll be a free player.

What an interesting thought for the NSL club officials! I saw drooling over his talents during the Buffalo Gold Cup. And he's just 22 years old.

Hellas to miss out, Venglos in Malaysia

Overseas round-up
by PAUL MOON

• The executive committee of the European Football Union (UEFA) has chosen West Germany as the host country for the 1988 European championships finals. West Germany had been recommended as the first choice ahead of England by UEFA's organising committee last month.

• Former Socceroo coach Dr Jozef Venglos is now in charge of the Federal Territory team in Malaysia.

• Harry Catterick, manager at Everton when it won the FA Cup in 1966 and the 1969 — 70 English league championship, collapsed during the recent Everton v Ipswich Town FA Cup game at Goodison Park and died soon afterwards.

• The provisional dates for this year's Meriton Cup in Singapore are October 12-27.

• Sampdoria and England striker Trevor Francis was given mouth to mouth resuscitation after being knocked unconscious in a clash of heads with Udinese's Cesare Catanesio during an Italian First Division game. Francis remained unconscious for five minutes. Hospital tests later showed that he had not suffered a serious injury.

• Hong Kong newspapers have reported that the Puma Gold Cup will be suspended for this

year. If true, South Melbourne Hellas invitation will, naturally, be withdrawn.

• Alfredo Foni, a member of Italy's World Cup winning side of 1936, has died aged 74.

• Australian Jim Preston helped an "English combination" win the Golden Ox seven-a-side tournament in Hong Kong. The event involved teams representing all the ethnic communities of the Crown Colony.

• Philip Reis, now playing for Tung Sing, has been called up for the Hong Kong national side. Brother Alan is in Brisbane.

• Allan Simonsen, who broke a leg in last year's European Championship Finals, is reported to have made a full recovery and signed a new contract with his club Vejle.

• Johan Neeskens will play for Groningen during the remainder of the Dutch League season.

• Dutch national team coach Rinus Michels suffered a mild heart attack and will not resume duties for four months — a period in which Holland plays World Cup games against Cyprus, Austria and Hungary.

• A Nigerian international has claimed that last year's African Cup game against Algeria was "fixed". The 0-0 draw enabled both teams to enter the semi-finals.

• USSR beat Yugoslavia 2-1 in the final of the Nehru Gold Cup in Cochin, India.

Australian Soccer



The Olympic Airways Soccer League kicks off each week on SBS TV.

Every Monday, Les Murray presents all the action from the weekend games. Plus 'Goal of the Week' and panel discussions. Repeated Tuesday nights.

6pm Monday

SBS
Bringing the world back home



NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND 3

23-24 MARCH

SOUTHERN DIVISION

**PRESTON vs
BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS**
at CONNOR RESERVE 3 pm SUNDAY 24th



Gary Cole

YOUTH GAME
PRESTON vs
BRUNSWICK
JUVENTUS
12.45 pm



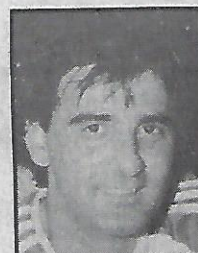
Yakka Banovic

**GREEN GULLY vs
BRISBANE LIONS**
at GREEN GULLY RESERVE 3 pm
SATURDAY 23rd



Jim Murray

YOUTH GAME
GREEN GULLY vs
NUNAWADING
CITY
12.45pm



Claude Lucchesi

**BRISBANE CITY vs
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS**
at SPENCER PARK 3 pm SUNDAY 24th



Ossie Latif

YOUTH GAME
CROYDON CITY
vs
SUNSHINE
GEORGE CROSS
Venue to be
Announced



Kim Wishart

**STH MELB HELLAS vs
FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.**
at MIDDLE PARK 3 pm SUNDAY 24th



Steve Blair

YOUTH GAME
STH MELB
HELLAS
vs
FOOTSCRAY
J.U.S.T.
12.45pm



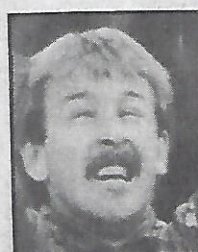
Bill Lazopoulos

**MELB.CROATIA vs
HEIDELBERG UTD**
AT OLYMPIC PARK No 1 3 pm SUNDAY 24th



Shaun Parton

YOUTH GAME
MELB CROATIA
vs
HEIDELBERG
UTD
12.45pm



Jeff Oliver

**WEST ADELAIDE vs
ADELAIDE CITY**
At HINDMARSH STADIUM 2.30 pm
SUNDAY 24th



Graeme Honeyman

See The
BIG
Local
Derby



Sergio Melta

NORTHERN DIVISION

SYDNEY CITY vs WOLLONGONG CITY
At WENTWORTH PARK 2 pm SATURDAY 23rd

NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD vs SYDNEY CROATIA
At ADAMSON OVAL 7 pm SATURDAY 23rd

MARCONI vs ST GEORGE
At MARCONI STADIUM 3 pm SUNDAY 24th

SYDNEY OLYMPIC vs CANBERRA CITY
At ST GEORGE STADIUM 3 pm SUNDAY 24th

PENRITH CITY vs BLACKTOWN CITY
At COOK PARK 3 pm SUNDAY 24th

INTER MONARO vs LEIGHARDT
At SEIFFERT OVAL 3 pm SUNDAY 24th